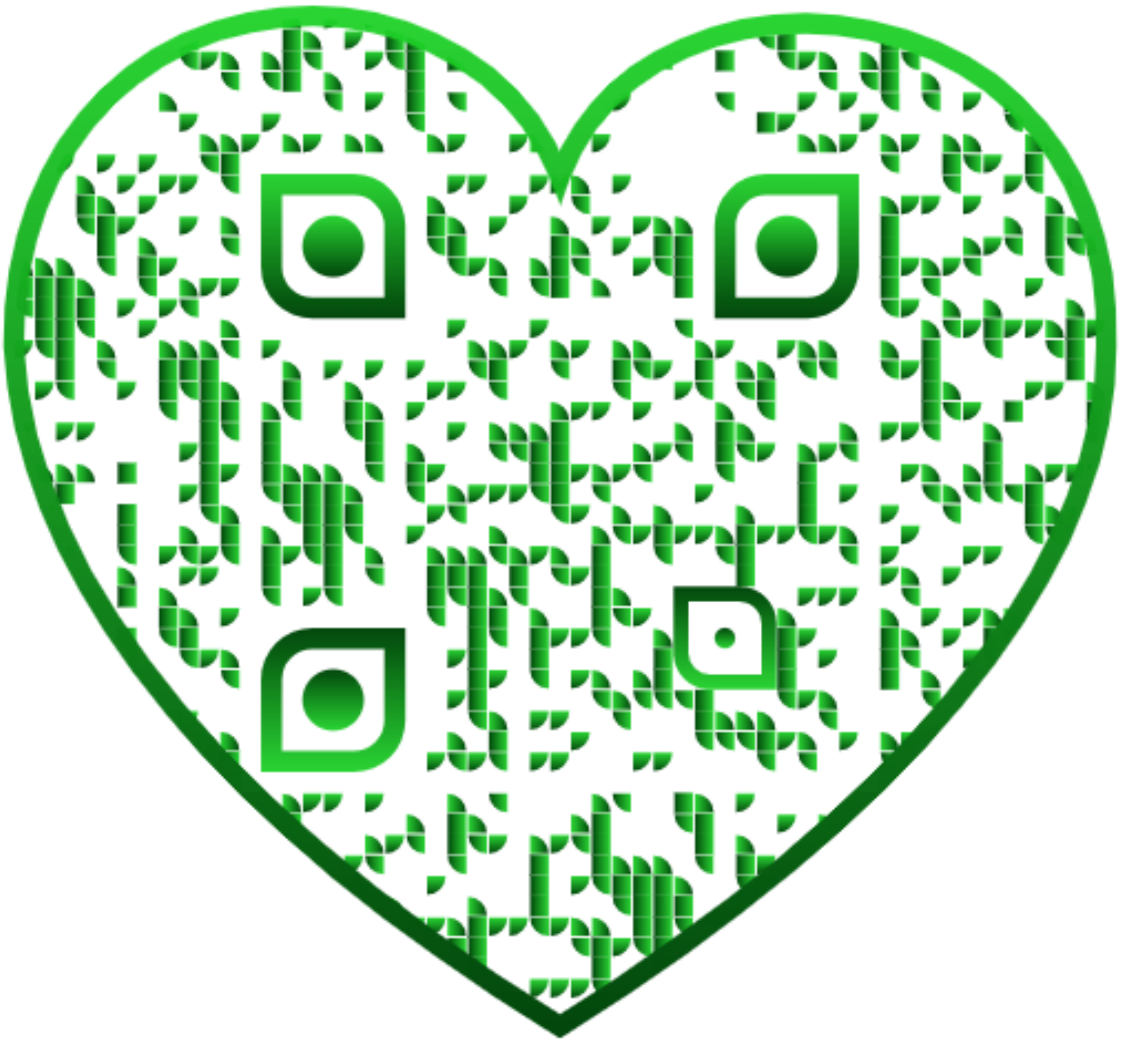
PAUL STONEHILL & PHILIP MANTLE

Russia's USO Secrets

Unidentified Submersible Objects
in Russian and International Waters



Russia's USO Secrets

Unidentified Submersible Objects in Russian and International Waters

by
Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle

Richard Dolan Press
2016

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Stonehill, Paul and Mantle, Philip.
Russian USOs: Unidentified Submersible Objects in Russian and International Waters/ by Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle

186 p.
ISBN-13: 978-1532898402
1. Unidentified Flying Objects
2. Russia

First published in the United States by Richard Dolan Press

Cover art by Daniel Del Toro

Manufactured in the United States of America

Richard Dolan Press: richarddolanpress.com
Philip Mantle's website: beyondroswell.com

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Acknowledgments

There are many people that we would like to thank for their research of Soviet and post-Soviet USO phenomenon. We apologise now for any we have missed.

Among Russian and Ukrainian UFO/USO researchers we must thank Vladimir Ajaja, Mikhail Gershtein, Valentin Psalomschikov, Konstantin Khazanovich, Colonel Valentin Pravdivtsev, N. Yerokhina, Y. Litvinov, M. Shteynberg, M. Soroka, V. Kratokhvil, Vadim Chernobrov, Aleksandr Petukhov, V.P. Pravdivtsev, and E. P. Litvinov. The authors of this book would like to pay tribute to all of these individuals and are indebted to them in many ways.

We would like to pay tribute and dedicate this book to other UFO/USO researchers and writers no longer with us. In our eyes they were true pioneers: Feliks Zigel, Alexander Kuzovkin, Vadim Vilinbakhov, V. Krapiva, A. Gorbovsky, M. Demidenko, and Colonel Gherman Kolchin.

We would also like to thank the following organizations for their help and assistance with this book: UFODOS, Ukrainian UFO research organization KOSMOPOISK, Russian and International UFO and Paranormal Phenomena, and Mysteries Research and Investigation Organization.

Last but not least we would like to thank Daniel Del Toro for his excellent cover art, Robert Snow for his editing and proofreading, and our publisher Richard Dolan for all his patience.

Paul Stonehill & Philip Mantle.

Introduction

Alexander Al’fredovich Gorbovsky, a Russian historian, social scientist and

writer who passed away in London in 2003, worked for 20 years in the USSR's Academy of Sciences. His book, *Zagadki Drevney Istorii* (*Enigmas of Ancient History*), was published in 1966 and republished in the early 1970s. For many people in the Soviet Union, this book opened the door to the forbidden but fascinating world of ufology, mysteries of ancient history, and paleocontact (a Russian term for the ancient astronaut hypothesis).

Alexander Gorbovsky

In the earliest edition of his book, Gorbovsky mentioned an incident that took place in the ancient Mediterranean Sea, where people observed a strange underwater vehicle coming to the surface at high speed. The object shot out of the water and soon disappeared from view.

Like many researchers in Russia, the authors of this book have been fascinated by USO reports. USO is an acronym for *unidentified submersible objects*, essentially what we think of as UFOs, but underwater. In this book for the very first time, we will detail accounts of strange phenomena observed at sea, along with mysterious underwater objects, many of which have been reported by sincere and diligent witnesses.

We will take a close look at the work of our colleagues in Russia and the Soviet Union who have studied this remarkable topic for decades. We must

add, however, that at times some researchers have been very reluctant to release such information and others have simply refused. Secret files of the Soviet Navy contain a great deal of valuable information about UFO and USO sightings, and researchers of the Soviet military have been very thorough and professional. Unfortunately, the files continue to be largely inaccessible, even after the fall of the USSR. But through years of research, and with the help of our colleagues in the former Soviet Union, modern Russia, Ukraine, and other now independent countries, we have been able to collect a great deal of fascinating and previously unpublished information.

It is worth mentioning that the Soviet Navy carefully guarded its secrets and spoke out against those whose alternative views on the subject of USOs were published in the USSR. A typical reaction was given by Rear Admiral M. Rudnitsky to an article about USOs published in the intrepid *Tekhnika-Molodezhi* magazine in Issue 9, 1972. Rudnitsky dismissed the possibility of USOs, stating (among other things), that if intelligent beings had resided underwater for thousands of years, they would doubtless have tried to contact human beings. Clearly, he said, this has not happened.

Or perhaps they have. In the opinion of N. Yerokhina, a perceptive Siberian engineer interested in USOs, the mysterious fluorescence observed in the sea may be exactly such an attempt to establish communications between an underwater civilization and ourselves. Pure speculation of course, but perhaps closer to the mark than outright dismissals by officialdom.

Regardless of the Soviet Navy's attempts to diminish public interest in this sensitive subject, the Navy itself has always been interested. Researcher Nikolai Nepomnyaschy described a startling incident in 1960, when a large underwater object was allegedly bombarded by the Argentinian Navy. This elicited a strong reaction by the Soviet authorities, and Nikita Khrushchev, then the head of the Soviet government, sent an inquiry to the Soviet attaché in Argentina for more information. Apparently, the Argentinian attempt to capture the USO ended in failure.[1]

Pavel Popovich

Soviet cosmonauts have also expressed a strong interest in UFO and USO phenomena. In August of 2006, Pavel Popovich, a famous Soviet cosmonaut who had helped Vladimir Ajaja and other devotees promote UFO research in the USSR, and who was prominent in helping them obtain the KGB UFO files in the early 1990s, was interviewed by a popular Ukrainian newspaper. [2] Popovich revealed some very interesting information during the interview. He talked about an ancient advanced civilization from a world known as Phaeton or Moonah (believed to have existed next to Earth ages ago, but which perished from nuclear devastation), whose inhabitants

probably visit Earth from time to time. The visitors' intermediate base, he said, was located near Saturn, and they had three bases on Earth. One of them was in the Andes, the other in the Indian Ocean trench, and the third one was located in the Himalayas in Shambala. The base in the Andes, according to Popovich, was liquidated by the extraterrestrial visitors because human civilization came too close to it. But, he maintained, the extraterrestrials continued to maintain an underwater base at the bottom of the Indian Ocean trench.

The authors of this book do not know the source of the late cosmonaut's claim. Instead, we highlight it here simply to show that the topic is indeed taken seriously in highly-established circles, and also to demonstrate one of the many theories that have been put forward to account for USO sightings. We will present Russian and Soviet observations of USOs from all corners of the world, and let the readers decide for themselves what theory best fits the evidence.

Russian media has been broadcasting a number of documentaries on the subject of USOs. In 2006, a documentary titled *Tayna tryokh okeanov* (*Mystery of three oceans*) written and directed by V. Pravdivtsev, was broadcast on Russian television. It featured several Russian Naval officers who were very knowledgeable on the subject of USO encounters. It also presented sightings mentioned by a number of prominent researchers, including several from the articles of Paul Stonehill. In 2008, Russian television (First Channel) broadcast a documentary film *NLO. Podvodniye prisheltsi* (*UFO. Underwater Aliens*). The same year, another Russian TV channel (REN-TV), broadcast a film titled *NLO: ukhod pod vodu* (*UFO: The Underwater Departure*). Without a doubt, that the Russian public has a great deal of interest in this topic.

At the same time, there have occasionally been claims that the Russian Navy is declassifying and releasing information about USOs. Such was the case in 2009, when Western and Russian media published such claims. Alas, this was not the case. A spokesman for the Russian Navy quickly proclaimed that there were no official documents describing encounters with unidentified objects by Soviet ships and submarines. He added that rumors might naturally arise because commanding officers are ordered to report all objects that cannot be classified but are observed visually and on radar screens. In such cases, schools of fish, floating trash, and natural phenomena can be mistaken for UFOs. In other words, he said, the media claims were false.

For the record, the authors of this book do not believe that anything related to Russia's naval intelligence and counterintelligence files will be declassified any time soon. We are not holding our breath. No information about any pending opening of secret files has come from any of the leading Russian researchers. No secret USO files have been declassified from the Russian State Naval Archive, one of the oldest archives in Russia and predating 1917. Russia and its Navy guard their secrets very well.

Nevertheless, we should stay tuned for new announcements from the Russians (and possibly other nations that study oceans, seas, rivers and lakes of our planet) about USOs. This is because our ability to explore deep into our planet's oceans is continually improving, and we can only wonder what surprises await us.

For instance, nations around the globe are building increasingly more sophisticated unmanned underwater vehicles, and these have become more common for both military and civilian applications. Video cameras and echo sounders are used extensively by the scientific community to study oceans around the world and explore mysteries at bone crushing depths. Remotely operated vehicles—uninhabited underwater robots connected to ships by cables—can go where humans dare not or cannot. Scientists are developing neurotechnology based on the neurophysiology and behavior of animal models. New technologies such as biomimetic autonomous underwater vehicles are being developed and built. Increasingly autonomous underwater vehicles are being used for underwater survey missions. We can only wonder of the mysteries they will uncover.

Indeed, the Russians have a long history of leadership in the area of submersibles. The Soviets had a fascinating submersible, the extremely secret POISK-6 deep-diving three-man submersible vehicle, for seabed operations. Not much is known about it in the West but there is some information from open Russian sources. We know it was developed at the Special Boiler Design Bureau JSC in Leningrad, where Soviet designers developed electrochemical generator plants for naval submarines. Back in 1985 (before Japanese and French submersibles), it was able to reach the depths of six kilometers.[3] The Soviets also developed the MIR I and MIR II submersibles, capable of operating to depths of six thousand meters for up to 20 hours. This makes them two of only seven manned submersibles in the world that can dive beyond three thousand meters. They are designed to hold three people, typically two pilots and one observer. The Russians have used

their MIR submersibles to investigate hydrothermal vents in several areas of the globe. Several times, American scientists joined them for the dives and exploration of these hydrothermal vents.[4]

There were reports in 2012 that a Russian shipyard in the northern city of Severodvinsk was building a top secret nuclear-powered deep-sea submersible (dubbed Project 09852) capable of both research and rescue missions. We shall describe sightings in the vicinity of Severodvinsk later in this book.

The Russians therefore have long had ample capability of observing strange underwater phenomena. Judging by information about Russian underwater sightings, including statements of Russian Naval officers and intelligence operatives, it is safe to conclude that the Soviets (before 1991), and the Russians (now) are preoccupied with strange unidentified objects lurking in their waters. We present evidence of this in the form of sightings, reports, and statements. Most of the information in this book has never been presented outside of Russia's borders, and is little known even to those inside the borders of that country.

No one knows just how many USO reports there have been around the world. Similarly, no one has been able fully to explain this intriguing and fascinating phenomena. It has often been said that we know far more about the surface of our moon than we do of our world's seas and oceans. The study of USOs only serves to emphasize that very fact.

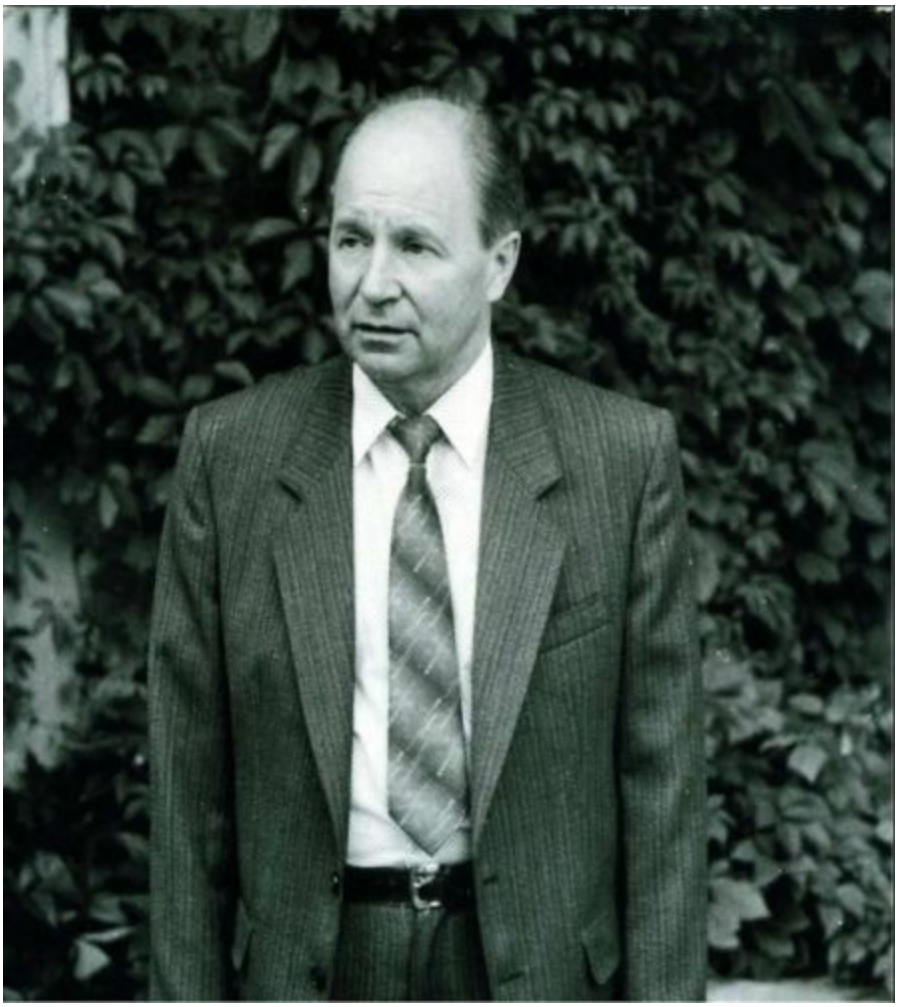
Chapter 1 — A Brief History of Soviet USO Research

Vladimir Georgiyevich Ajaja (b. 1927) is one of the most prominent personalities in the history of Russian UFO and USO research. As a young man, he attended the prestigious M.V. Frunze Higher Naval School (the oldest Russian naval officers commissioning school), served in the Soviet Navy, and later participated in oceanographic research. During his life, he became close friends with leading figures in the Soviet and Russian Navy, wrote a monograph about UFOs for the Soviet Navy, and was able to

question Soviet naval intelligence officers responsible for UFO and USO studies.

At one time, Ajaja served as the head of the underwater exploration expedition aboard the Soviet *Severyanka* submarine. In fact, he designed many of the vessel's features. During its missions, he and his fellow crew members sometimes observed a very unusual object or creature below the surface—something that looked like a lyre with green tentacles. Whatever this might have been, it spurred a deep interest in unidentified phenomena. Other mainstream Soviet marine researchers would not touch this subject, but Ajaja found two useful sources—one book and one individual. The book was the Russian translation of Charles Berlitz's *The Bermuda Triangle*, which discussed UFOs. The individual was Vice-Admiral Y. V. Ivanov, head of the Naval Intelligence Directorate. From Ivanov, Ajaja learned that Soviet Naval Intelligence had long considered UFOs to be a subject of serious investigation.

Ajaja's newfound interest, however, soon put him on thin ice. The Soviet Communist Party systematically opposed and undermined anyone who studied such forbidden matters as UFOs. One simple reason for this was that the search for UFOs could inadvertently reveal secret Soviet military tests and rocket launches that would then come to the attention of foreign (i.e. American) intelligence agents inside the Soviet Union. But just as significantly, the Kremlin essentially had no sure method of dealing with these unidentified objects. For years and decades, unknown objects crossed the Soviet Union's borders, entered its restricted airspace, hovered over its nuclear sites and forbidden testing grounds, and chased its fighter jets. The objects simply could not be restrained. Soviet censorship could repeat on a daily basis through its media that UFOs did not exist, but even with all the power of the Politburo, its secret police and its formidable armed forces, it was unable to stop or detain UFOs and USOs. These objects had ultimate freedom of movement and expression. They recognized no national or international boundaries.



Vladimir Ajaja

Ajaja's research resulted in him getting fired from his job. He became a target of the scientific establishment and the Communist Party. His name was smeared in the Soviet media, his works were blacklisted, and he was prevented from speaking or lecturing publicly.

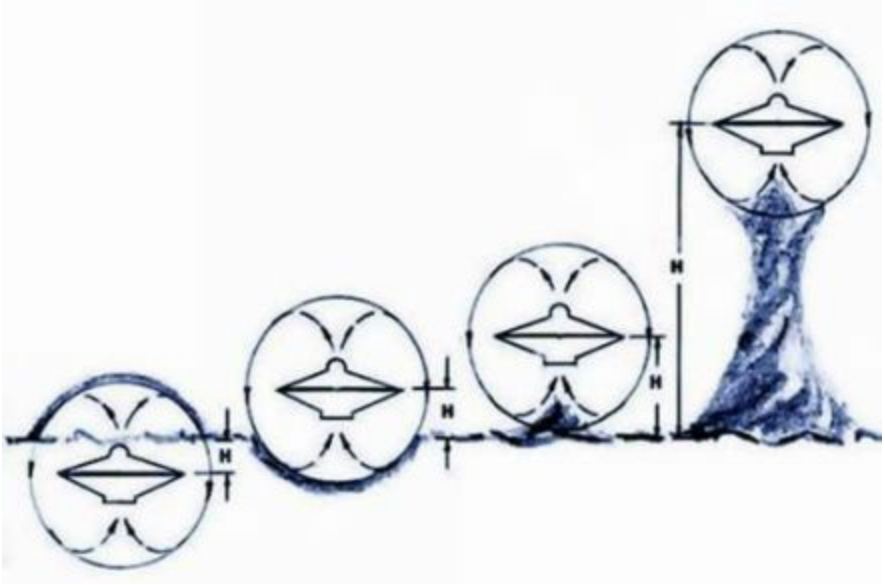
Fortunately, the Soviet Navy provided him with employment, along with an enviable opportunity to continue his study of UFOs and USOs. At least within the Navy, ideology took a back seat to the practical matters of national defense. With the help of his well-placed Soviet Navy friends, Ajaja wrote an article on the Bermuda Triangle for *Nauka I Zhizhn*, a respected Soviet scientific magazine.

On November 17, 1976, Ajaja gave a lecture about UFOs and related underwater phenomena at the Department of the Underwater Research of the Oceanographic Commission of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Among those present were his superior, Chairman of the Department P. Borovikov. Also present was Borovikov's deputy, E. Kukharkov, and 29 other people.

The lecture was impressive enough that the attendees decided to include UFO sightings over and within bodies of water into the planned activities of the department. All such collected data was to be fully researched and analysed.

The group clearly had no shortage of oddities to study. Ajaja related a curious episode which had taken place a few months earlier. The Pirogovsky Reservoir Basin is located seven kilometers from Moscow. In August of 1976, A. Troitsky and six other eyewitnesses observed a silvery metallic disc over the reservoir. It was about eight times as large as the apparent size of the Moon. The object moved slowly at an altitude of approximately several dozen meters. Witnesses saw two revolving stripes along its side. When it hovered over them, they saw a black hatch open on its underside, and a small thin cylinder protrude from it. The lower portion of the cylinder started moving in circles, but the upper portion remained attached to the object.

Such a bizarre story is simply one of many collected by Ajaja involving unknown objects in and around bodies of water. Another one involved a Soviet nuclear submarine with the Pacific Fleet. While on battle patrol, hydroacoustic equipment detected six unknown objects directly next to the submarine’s location. The objects could not be classified. When the sub tried to move away, the objects mirrored its maneuvers, remaining in the same fixed position. The submarine commander was forced to surface, violating the rules for submarine battle patrols. As the sub surfaced, all six USOs flew out of the ocean and disappeared from view, undoubtedly leaving the observers totally perplexed. Ajaja stated that he learned of this incident in an official document he saw in the Main Staff Headquarters of the Soviet Navy.



USO rising from the ocean.

One of the most important naval UFO episodes, frequently discussed by Ajaja,[5] took place in the Barents Sea on October 7, 1977. Radar technicians on the submarine tender *Volga* detected the approach of an unknown target at a distance of about 100 kilometers (roughly 60 miles). While the seamen were responding to the emergency, Captain 3rd Rank Tarankin was urgently called to the ship's battle information center. There he learned that radar technicians believed the target was a group of helicopters—but where had these helicopters come from? The submarine tender was far away from the shore, and all known Soviet helicopters were too distant to reach it. Moreover, intelligence reports indicated an absence of foreign helicopter aircraft carriers in the Barents Sea.

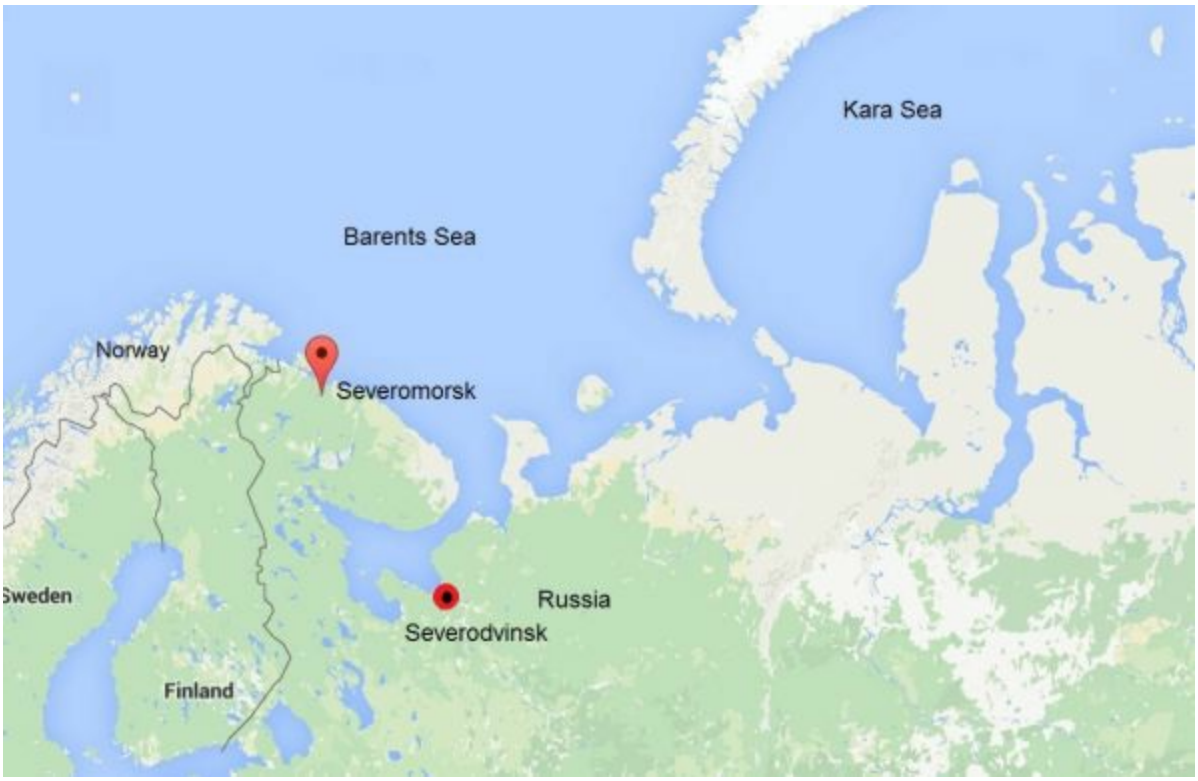
Captain Tarankin went out to the bridge, hoping to get a visual. He saw nine bright "strange shining discs" approaching from the northeast. Other personnel aboard the *Volga* also observed these objects, and all agreed that whatever they were viewing, these objects were not helicopters. As the discs approached *Volga*'s masts, they began an eerie circular "dance" (*khorovod* in Russian).

Tarankin ordered radio operators to contact the main base of the Northern Fleet in Severomorsk. But incredibly, the frantic naval officers discovered that they could not send or receive any radio communications. All communication was cut. Tarankin then issued the following unusual order over the ship's radio: all onboard personnel were to observe, remember, draw, and photograph the objects if possible. He wanted to make sure that no

one would accuse him of having lost his mind.

The radio silence continued for the entire eighteen minutes that the objects continued their dance over the *Volga*. After they departed, radio communications were restored, and messages were sent to the main base. One hour later, a reconnaissance plane arrived to the site but by then the objects were long gone.

This incident greatly concerned those in charge of the Soviet Navy. Ajaja was called in that very day to meet with First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy, Fleet Admiral Nikolai Smirnov. Smirnov, who also oversaw scientific research for the Navy, had Ajaja listen to the recording of Tarankin's report. Smirnov also contacted deputy chief of the Main Staff of the Navy, N. P. Navoytsev, and ordered that a directive be sent to the fleets and flotillas: they were to implement a Directive—known as the *Instruction for UFO Observations*—aboard all ships. Ajaja himself provided the exact language of the Instruction. It was signed by Deputy Chief of the Main Staff of the Navy, N. P. Navoytsev. Initially, it was put into practice aboard hydrographic, scientific research, and reconnaissance ships.



One of the first observations reported because of the Instruction concerned an object sighted by the watch officer of the high speed Soviet nuclear

submarine (Project 705) returning from tests in the Severodvinsk shipbuilding yard. This took place on September 20, 1977. Severodvinsk is home to the world's largest shipyard. The city, located in the delta of the Northern Dvina, was built to make the Northern Fleet independent of the Baltic shipyards and serves as the principal Russian shipyard for the nation's Northern Fleet and nuclear submarines.

The watch officer (a Captain-Engineer 2nd Rank) noticed a rapidly moving object in the sky that looked like a bright star. It moved from the north to the south, in the direction of Petrozavodsk and Leningrad. The star seemed to stretch out, turning into a long glowing ribbon. As it flew over him, the watch officer thought that it looked like a cylinder, with one of the ends of this cylinder suddenly becoming asymmetrical. It was hard to estimate size, but judging from the object's apparent altitude, it was enormous. Out of this cylinder came small objects that from a distance resembled small peas. These objects did not follow the cylinder but flew off in various directions. The watch officer recorded this unusual phenomenon in the submarine's log. It was determined that one hour later this UFO was observed over Petrozavodsk.

The Petrozavodsk phenomenon, as it became known, was the impetus leading to the creation of the secret SETKA program, which conducted research into UFOs. This program functioned from 1978 until the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. The program had two basic components, SETKA-MO and SETKA-AN. The former was the program's military component, while the latter was run under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences. While the available record shows that SETKA-MO took the UFO/USO problem quite seriously, SETKA-AN generally functioned in a more negative, dismissive fashion.

As part of SETKA-MO, the *Instruction* (*Metodicheskiye Ukazaniya*) became an official directive for the Soviet Navy. This was under the auspices of the State Committee of the USSR for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, and issued to the Soviet armed forces. It was signed by Deputy Commander of the Main Headquarters of the Navy, Vice Admiral Saakyan, and was also signed by Rear Admiral Mars Iskanderov for dissemination in the Northern Fleet. We will see further mention of this fleet regarding a number of sightings in this book.

The *Instruction* signed by Saakyan mentioned two military units where the most serious UFO data collected by Soviet troops had to be sent immediately.

These were Unit 67947 (in town of Mitischi near Moscow) and Unit 62728 (Leningrad). Such data was subsequently to be sent to the special research units concerned with physical traces of anomalous phenomena, death of military personnel (as a result of contact with anomalous phenomena), and breakdown or malfunction of technology.

On January 16, 1979, Ajaja took the Instruction he had written for the Soviet Armed Forces to those who had trained the nation's cosmonauts. It was Pilot-Cosmonaut V. Shatalov, the Deputy Air Force Commander for Cosmonaut Training, who was the recipient of Ajaja's Instruction. Independent Russian UFO researchers do not know whether the Instruction was adopted for Soviet cosmonauts, but it is known that Ajaja was allowed to give his UFO lectures in the Soviet Space Research Institute and the Mission Control Center.

In 1984, a Central Commission for Anomalous Phenomena in the Environment was established by the All-Union Council of Scientific Technical Societies. It was chaired by V. Troitsky, a Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. One of his deputies was the cosmonaut, General-Major of Aviation Pavel Popovich.

Popovich, who played an important part in the Commission, later recalled that most of the information concerning anomalous phenomena came from military sources and pilots. All were considered trustworthy, sane, and healthy people. Of these many reports, several were quite serious. One of these was sent by A. Golotikin, a mechanic from Leningrad. In 1980, Golotikin worked aboard *Brilliant*, a large fishing freezer trawler. On January 24, the trawler was operating at the distance of about twenty to thirty miles from the Western Sahara coast. In the very early afternoon at 1 p.m., while Golotikin and other crew members were on the deck, they saw a black cigar-shaped object moving toward the ship in complete silence, moving much slower than normal aircraft. The crew observed the object through binoculars for five to seven minutes. Then, upon approaching the trawler, it simply disappeared, leaving the witnesses astonished.[6]

Although anomalous objects were being recorded within the Soviet classified world, little to none of it was available outside those circles. UFO research was one of many forbidden subjects. In 1984, Popovich boldly spoke to this reality by stating "today there is a great compilation of observations of flying objects, and it is time to understand what we are dealing with. There is no sense in hiding one's head in the sand, like an

ostrich, and denying everything. The inexplicable must be researched."[7]

Only in the final years of the Soviet Union did openness reach the world of UFO research. In his brochure *Vnimaniye: NLO* (*Attention: UFOs*), Ajaja stated that the UFO wave of 1989, which was still in progress in 1991 when it was published, had swept away ideological and censorship barriers which had previously been in place against active UFO research within the USSR. However, because of the years of silence, the USSR was totally unprepared for the upsurge in UFO sightings, both flying and submersible. With that in mind, Ajaja helped organise the *Soyuzufotsentr* in 1990. This was the first official, public, Soviet research organization to promote the scientific study of UFOs. It broke away from its cradle, the Soviet Academy of Sciences, largely because Ajaja was convinced that those responsible for UFO research within the Academy hindered genuine and unbiased research. This was later confirmed when the story of SETKA became public, incomplete though it is, as there is still hidden and classified information relating to the program's activities and discoveries.

Vladimir Ajaja and Pavel Popovich both played an important role in the history of Soviet UFO and USO research. Most likely, they knew more than has been revealed in their writings and interviews. Ajaja, for instance, co-authored a curious book back in 1966 entitled *Submarines in Scientific Research* (Nauka, 1966). Briefly mentioned in that book is the fact that Ajaja helped to perform "intriguing" research in the area of hydrobiology, although he never really discussed what that research was. So much of Soviet and Russian UFO/USO research remains hidden to this day and we can currently only guess at what has not yet been released. Hopefully, one day we will learn more. Without a doubt, however, without Vladimir Ajaja and Pavel Popovich, we would be far less informed than we currently are, and we owe them both a debt of gratitude.

Chapter 2 — Ghosts of the Ocean: The Soviet Navy's Kvakeri Research

During the late 1960s, the Cold War was still raging, and dangers for both sides of the ruthless (and frequently invisible) war lurked in the skies, on land, and underwater. During this period, a particularly strange underwater phenomenon attracted the attention of the Soviet Navy's High Command. Soviet nuclear-powered submarines began encountering strange sounds emanating from moving objects at great depths. The process of listening to underwater sounds is known as hydroacoustic monitoring, and these Soviet monitors began detecting strange signals that resembled the croaking of frogs. The objects responsible for these sounds were dubbed the *kvakeri*, a term which was officially adopted within the Soviet Navy's documents. *Kvakat'* in Russian means "to croak."

Nuclear submarines, which drove the Cold War's most furious phase of the arms race, seem to have been of greatest interest to the *kvakeri*. According to Vice Admiral Viktor Patrushev, Chief of Operations on the General Staff of the Russian Navy and professor of the Academy of Military Sciences, the Soviets had built 243 nuclear submarines of various classes as well as over 1,000 diesel submarines. The course and bearing indicators of the Soviet naval vessels demonstrated that the unknown objects would circle the subs and change the frequency and tone of their signals. The Soviets were never able to establish the source of the sound. They would come from different sides, with constant changes in tone. It was as if the objects were inviting the submarines to engage in conversations of sorts.

The *kvakeri* reacted actively but apparently never aggressively to the acoustic dispatches from the submarines. They would accompany Soviet submarines until the latter would exit a certain area. Then, producing the croaking sound for the last time, they would disappear. In April 1970, for instance, the *kvakeri* accompanied a reconnaissance vessel known as the *Khariton Laptev*, code-named SSV 503, while it was on a secret mission in the North Atlantic. This was precisely at the time when a Soviet nuclear submarine, the K-8, perished in the area. The reconnaissance ship then stopped its sonar operations, rushed to the submarine, and was able to save many of the crew.

Even though there was never any known hostile confrontation with the *kvakeri* in the long years of their interaction, Soviet commanders and submarine crews quite naturally found encounters with them stressful.

The Soviet Minister of Defense, Marshal Andrei Antonovich Grechko,

ordered the creation of a special research team by the Intelligence Directorate of the Soviet Navy to investigate the *kvakeri.* Admiral Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov spared no effort to research this phenomenon which was obstructing his navy's operations.[8] He ordered a series of oceanic expeditions to research the *kvakeri* as well as other unusual phenomena. Soviet officers in the Top Secret naval research program performed their duties eagerly; they were well educated and highly professional people. They continuously visited different Soviet fleets and collected all available information.

Vadim Kulinchenko, a retired Soviet naval officer and submariner who had also been a senior officer in the Main Staff of the Russian Navy, was the first former Soviet Navy officer to reveal details about the *kvakeri*.[9] He recalled the stir created by reports of strange, unidentified noises that accompanied Soviet subs in their secret missions in unfriendly waters. He considered the *kvakeri* to be like UFOs: observed by many and yet unproven.

Vadim Kulinchenko

The *kvakeri* were encountered mostly in the Atlantic Ocean, but also in northern areas such as the Norwegian Sea and on to the western border of the Barents Sea.[10] According to other sources, they were also found to operate

as far as away as near the Philippines.

Adding to the mystery is that sonar technicians not only detected "croaking" sounds, but other strange sounds, as well. Although the croaking sounds were the most common, no one knew why.[11]

Even now, little is confirmed in the way of specifics about the phenomenon or the program. For instance, although Ajaja is certainly a prominent personality in the history of Russian UFO and USO research, there is no proof that he was privy to the secrets of *kvakeri* research.

Apparently, the phenomenon ceased to bother Soviet ships by the early 1980s, and the *kvakeri* research program was abruptly stopped.

Other former Soviet military officers and researchers have revealed more information about unusual underwater phenomena.

Technology Made in America

Were the *kvakeri* some kind of American technology? Not surprisingly, opinions are divided. Admiral Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernavin, for instance, strongly stated that he knew for a fact that the Americans had instructions to collect information about anomalous phenomena, very much like the Soviet Instruction regarding UFOs and USOs written by Ajaja.[12] For this reason, some Soviet military researchers believed that the *kvakeri* to be genuine USOs, not manufactured by the Americans.

Admiral Vladimir Chernavin

Yet most of the specialists in the research groups who studied the phenomenon have not agreed with this assessment. Many believed America to be the chief suspect behind the *kvakeri*. The surmise from the Soviet Navy was that its vessels were encountering some sort of advanced U.S. submarine tracking technology. Rear Admiral Vladlen Naumov, for example, suggested that the *kvakeri* were U.S. Navy sonic underwater buoys. Back in September

1975, as a Captain 1st Rank (Military Unit 63900), Naumov was given command of the K-182 submarine cruiser.[13] He heard the *kvakeri* during his missions and after also studying the experience of other Soviet nuclear submarines armed with ballistic missiles, stated that he established a procedure to evade the *kvakeri* on the basis that they were sonic underwater buoys. These buoys would have been part of SOSUS, an acronym for Sound Surveillance System: a chain of underwater listening posts across the North Atlantic Ocean near Greenland, Iceland, and the U.K. This was operated by the U.S. Navy to track Soviet submarines in the Atlantic and elsewhere. According to Naumov, during its service history, the K-182 was approached by the *kvakeri* 72 times and was able to cut contact with them all 72 times. His experience naturally elicited a great interest from the Soviet High Command.

Naumov's opinion is shared by an anonymous Soviet submariner, who expressed his opinion in one of the Russian forums dedicated to the *kvakeri* phenomenon. This person wrote that on a number of occasions he heard sounds emitted by *kvakeri* through the sound channel of the Soviet MGK-300 Rubin submarine towed-array sonar. He recorded the sounds and analyzed them during the years he served aboard the submarines of the 3rd Division. This was in the mid-1970s, when the *kvakeri* phenomenon was in its heyday. At the beginning of the 1980s, he personally observed the phenomenon and became convinced that it was caused by an aerial buoy dropped from U.S. Navy PS or PM aircraft. He heard the familiar *kvakeri* sounds through the sonar sound channel of a surface vessel. An aircraft would drop the buoy and the Soviets at once would hear the *kvakeri* sounds from precisely the direction where the buoy had landed.

The anonymous writer added that it is significant that the sonar operators of surface vessels had not been given instructions to study the *kvakeri*. Or, he added, the results of such study could have been so mundane and clear that only the submariners still carried romantic recollections about the *kvakeri* phenomenon. The writer also mentioned that the *kvakeri* sounds always reminded him of the typical dry knocking sound of wooden spoons, as made by spoon players in Russian folk music. The *kvakeri* conduct could be best understood, he argued, if one recalls that the buoys contained water-filled cell batteries; as the batteries discharged, the signals emitted became longer.

Fornicating Lobsters And Other Hypotheses

Even so, not everyone in the Soviet Navy shared such conclusions about the *kvakeri*. According to E. Ibragimov, a Soviet captain involved in the research, the *kvakeri* possessed amazing maneuverability. These included speeds reaching an unbelievable 150-200 knots (up to 370 kilometers per hour), remaining at nose angle in relationship to the submarine. Another former Soviet submariner, who calls himself Dima the Guru, recalled that the *kvakeri* were heard differently aboard submerged subs. On one occasion, he said, he heard something like a purr rushing outside the submarine; he wrote that the estimated speed of the object was close to 80 knots. Sometimes he felt, but did not hear, a sound he described as *sh-shshookhhh*, as if something huge had rushed by very close to the submarine—something obviously that was not alive. "How could it live at such speed?" he asked. On occasions, he stated, something small would lurk around the sub.

Dima mentioned that the "guys" who had served aboard the strategic Soviet subs (*strategi* in Russian naval slang), as people who value their secretiveness, gave a semi-mystical status to the phenomenon in their conversations. On the contrary, those from the multi-mission subs treated the *kvakeri* with rather cynical humor, saying that playful lobsters were fornicating.

Sonar stations working in direct listening mode registered sharp changes of bearing in relationship to the objects. In active mode, they sighted objects up to hundreds of meters in size, but only briefly. Dima added that while "on the surface" he had never seen or heard anything about the *kvakeri*. He believed that the experimental manned submarines we know today are not capable of matching the speed of the objects.

According to Admiral Anatoly Alexandrovich Komaritsin, Chief of the Main Directorate of Navigation and Oceanography of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, the Soviets tried to locate and detect the *kvakeri* formations with their acoustic stations. Sometimes, after moving through an area of *kvakeri* activity, Soviet submarines would return to base, only for their crew to discover that their subs' rubber surfaces were covered with some biological mass. This mass would emit light for a long time, but under the sunlight the luminescence would eventually disappear.

A former Soviet submariner, who stated his name as Sergey Vasilyevich, wrote about his experience with the *kvakeri* in 1985 while serving aboard the K-433 Soviet nuclear submarine in the northern region of the Pacific Ocean. [14] At a depth of approximately 100 meters, after an hour of "croaking" by

kvakeri, the submarine encountered and collided with something soft and viscous. The sound was similar to the one that raw meat makes when dropped on a cutting board, but this object was so huge that it forced the submarine cruiser (of 13,000-ton displacement while under water) to shudder and shake. Vasilyevich also recalled an incident that took place in 1989 when he was serving aboard the submarine K-211 in the Sea of Japan.[15] At a depth of 100 meters, the Russian sonar operators discovered two underwater targets that caught up with and overtook the submarine cruiser. While the Soviet submarine was moving at 10 knots, these were moving at a speed of 50 knots. The submarine's commander joked: "Your glorious sonar operators, oh commander of radio engineering, discovered an underwater airplane."

Another former Soviet submariner shared his views on a website forum that discussed the *kvakeri* phenomenon.

> You cannot even imagine what took place in the Main Staff of the Soviet Navy during perestroika and fraternization when the issue of the *kvakeri* was discussed with NATO. Realistically, NATO thought the *kvakeri* were our weapons, while we thought they were NATO's. It appears they were someone else's. The point is, neither could we build things at that level (that is why we thought about geniuses from NATO), nor could NATO (that is why they thought, 'what in damnation did the Soviets invent?').

A Natural Property of Water

The Russian newspaper *Argumenty Ifakty* published an article about *kvakeri* in its 9 June 2010 issue. The author, Yuliya Garmatina, mentioned that eyewitnesses referred to *kvakeri* as "ghosts of the ocean." Many Soviet submarines, she wrote, encountered such ghosts. To the men in the subs, it often seemed that the croaking *kvakeri* wanted to ram their vessel and then disappear, as if to dissolve. Garmatina was also told that sometimes they would see glowing shapes in the water.

Garmatina also presented the views of a prominent Russian scientist on the origin of *kvakeri*. This scientist, Aleksandr Smirnov, from the Moscow State Institute of Radio Mechanics, Electronics and Automation (*Moskovskiy Gosuderastvenniy Institut Radiotekhniki, Eletroniki I Avtomatiki*), is an expert on the properties of water. He considered *kvakeri* to be a natural phenomenon, associated with a change in the structure of water. Depending on the temperature (which can change due to the Sun's radiation, weather conditions and currents), water acquires different characteristics. Among them is its ability to change volume, and this change, he argued, creates the croaking sounds and luminescence. This process is invisible on a small scale,

but in the huge expanse of the ocean, he pointed out, it is displayed distinctively. A passing vessel disturbs water and stimulates its transition from one state into another. He added that the luminescence of the water can be explained from the point of view of physics; in short, it is visible when there is a concentration of energy of a large number of disturbed molecules. The process can start in one area and gradually spread, creating revolving radiant spiral wheels, circles and so on.

Smirnov stated that he found confirmations of his theory in the fact that *kvakeri* are spread around throughout the global oceans, do not have permanent coordinates and travel with water currents. He did not believe the phenomenon to be especially dangerous, but added it does generate electromagnetic radiation that can cause interference, for example in the functioning of electronic equipment.

Warning of Ecological Catastrophe

According to the World Nuclear Association, by 1989 there were over 400 nuclear-powered submarines operational or being built worldwide. At least 300 of these submarines have since been scrapped, and others were cancelled due to weapons reduction programs. Today, the U.S., Russia, Great Britain, France, and China possess a total of 160 such submarines. The Arctic has become a graveyard for the once mighty and feared fleet of Soviet nuclear-powered submarines.

Perhaps the *kvakeri* were attracted to the nuclear submarines in general because of the unpredictable ecological hazards posed to the environment by such vessels. Nuclear submarines everywhere are prone to disaster. After all, Soviet and Russian nuclear submarines have used enriched uranium for fuel (some as highly enriched as 90 per cent). The spent fuel is tremendously radioactive and contains unburned, highly enriched uranium, plutonium, and fission products. Russian submarines in the Arctic are corroding and sinking as their reactor compartments fill with water, foreshadowing an ecological catastrophe.

Soviet Research Program Terminated

At the close of 1970s, a scientific conference on the *kvakeri* was conducted by the Soviet Navy, but the participants were not able to reach any definitive conclusions. The Soviets even attempted to communicate with the *kvakeri*, but were never able to identify whether the reaction from the phenomenon

was intelligent. Some believed the sound was from killer whales during mating, while other researchers, such as those at the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, who had been involved in the *kvakeri* project, believed that the mysterious phenomenon was an unknown creature with a high level of intelligence—not a mythical creature, but an undiscovered underwater animal.

Perhaps the Soviet Navy, not interested in ichthyology, accepted this point of view, because in the early 1980s the *kvakeri* research program was abruptly terminated. Special research groups were disbanded and the officers who had worked there were given other assignments. All the collected information and data were marked Top Secret and locked away in naval archives. Neither Vadim Kulinchenko nor other former Soviet officers of his rank know why the program was shut down. The reasons why the results of the research have been classified are quite obvious: Soviet and Russian state military secrets are involved.

Research Files Remain Classified

In Russia, anything related to the nation's naval intelligence and counterintelligence files will not be declassified any time soon. The reasons for secrecy about the *kvakeri* were made clear enough by Captain 1st Rank Anatoly Smolovsky, the former chief of intelligence for Russia's Northern Fleet. He stated: "The Russian Navy Main Staff has information on about fifteen thousand sounds of unknown nature, registered by Soviet and Russian seamen. This information pertains to Russian nuclear submarine cruisers' routes and, as such, is in direct relationship with Russia's security. Hence, such data will remain secret in the near future."[16]

Captain 1st Rank Yevgeny Litvinov, author of a series of special bulletins of the Anomalous Phenomena Commission of the Russian Geographical Society, believes that the reasons for the termination of the program are as follows: (1) Scientific institutes were not able to determine the nature of *kvakeri*. (2) It was determined that the phenomenon was not U.S.-made technology. (3) *Kvakeri* did not did not present a threat to the Soviet Union. (4) It was not possible to reconstruct or duplicate *kvakeri* in any way.

According to Litvinov, the Soviet Defense Ministry believed the USO phenomenon was clearly so real as to compel undertaking a task to identify locations of their undersea bases.

Yevgeny Litvinov

As for the former submariner Kulinchenko, he tried to collect whatever information was available short of opening the secret files. Decades have passed since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and, still, very little information about the *kvakeri* has leaked out. Even those who have researched the phenomenon have different opinions as to its nature, ranging from the exotic, to the mundane, to the scientific. Of course, they can't all be correct. One thing is for certain, the *kvakeri* phenomenon is a mystery and it is one that gave the Soviet authorities a lot of food for thought. Very possibly, it still does.

Chapter 3 — The Swimmers of 1982, Lake Baikal of Siberia, Lake Issyk-Kul of Central Asia, and The Mysterious Humanoids

Mysterious Giants

Boris Pavlovich Grabovsky was a Soviet engineer who invented the first fully electronic TV transmitting tube and was the author of the book *Kosmicheskiy Biofactor*.[17] In the late 1930s, he conducted an intriguing interview with a reluctant witness to one episode of our planet's mysterious past.

The interviewee and his friends had explored a cave near Lake Issyk Kul, located in Kyrgyzstan. Inside the cave, the men discovered three human

skeletons, each more than three meters tall. The skeletons were adorned with decorations that looked like bats (flying mammals) made from silver. The men became frightened and for years kept silent about their discovery. They did melt down the silver decorations and a small piece had been saved. Soviet scientists who studied the piece said they could not determine its age. What is interesting is a Kyrgyz legend that mentions a submerged city in the Issyk Kul. The city's ruler was a creature with "long asinine ears."

Lake Issyk Kul, which means "the hot lake" in the Turkic languages of Central Asia, is one of the largest alpine lakes in the world. The Trans-Ili Ala-Tau and the Terskey Ala-Tau mountain ranges stretch along the north shore of the huge deep-water lake. South of the lake, two mountain ranges of the Tian Shan, separated by the valley of the Naryn, stretch in the same direction.

From the days of antiquity, the shores of the lake and its waters have kept many secrets and mysteries. Here are caves of Stone Age people, burial mounds of ancient nomads and Scythian kings, open-air temples, many strange rock drawings, ruins of long forgotten cities, and remnants of lost civilizations buried underwater.

Petroglyph near Lake Issyk Kul

The earliest Eurasian mention of gigantic beings dates back to early 1900s. Several boys in the country of Georgia (at the time, part of the Russian Empire) discovered a cave inside a mountain that could only be reached by diving into the lake. This cave was allegedly full of humanoid skeletons, each one about three meters tall.[18]

The Swimmers

In the summer of 1982, Mark Shteynberg, along with Lt. Colonel Gennady Zverev, conducted periodic training of the reconnaissance divers (frogmen) from the Turkestan and Central Asian military regions. Some of these training exercises took place at the Issyk Kul Lake in Krygyzstan.

Quite unexpectedly, the officers were paid a visit by a very important

official, Major-General V. Demyanenko, commander of the Military Diver Service of the Engineer Forces of the Ministry of Defense. He informed the local officers of an extraordinary event that had occurred during similar training exercises in the Trans-Baikal and West Siberian military regions. There, during their military training dives in Lake Baikal, the frogmen had encountered mysterious underwater swimmers, very human-like, except that their size was much larger—almost three meters tall. Despite icy-cold water temperatures and a depth of fifty meters, they were dressed only in tight-fitting silvery suits with neither scuba diving equipment (aqualungs), nor any other equipment—only sphere-like helmets concealing their heads.

The local military commander, who was alarmed by such encounters, decided on a plan to capture one of the creatures. To complete the mission, a special group of seven divers, under the command of an officer, had been dispatched. Apparently, as the frogmen tried to cover the creature with a net, some powerful unknown force threw the entire group out of the deep waters to the surface.

In those days, the equipment of the frogmen did not allow rapid ascent from such depths without strict adherence to the process of decompression stops. Therefore, all of the members of the ill-fated expedition were stricken by aeroembolism of Caisson disease. The only remedial treatment available consisted of an immediate confinement under decompression conditions within a pressure chamber. There were several such pressure chambers in the military region, but only one was in working condition, and it was only built to contain no more than two persons at any time. Seeing little choice in the matter, the local Commanding Officer forced four frogmen into the chamber at once. As a result, three of the men, including the group leader, died, while the rest became invalids.

The major-general rushed to Issyk Kul to warn the local military against similar risky operations. Although Issyk Kul Lake is shallower than Lake Baikal (which is the world’s deepest lake, as well as the largest freshwater lake in terms of volume), the depth of the former seemed sufficient to contain similar mysterious creatures. Did the major-general know something that Officer Shteynberg did not? We shall probably never know.

A short time later, the staff headquarters of the Turkmenistan military region received an order from the Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces. The order consisted of reprimands and a detailed analysis of the Lake Baikal events. It was supplemented by an information bulletin from the headquarters

of the Engineer Forces of the Ministry of Defense, USSR. The bulletin listed numerous deepwater lakes where sightings of anomalous phenomena had been registered, appearances of unknown underwater creatures similar to the Baikal type, descent and surfacing of giant discs and spheres, and a powerful luminescence emanating from the depths of the lake. Such official documents, without exception, were highly classified and “for eyes only” of a very limited circle of military officers. The purpose for such documents was “to prevent unnecessary encounters.”

The territory under the military unit jurisdiction where Shteynberg had served contained an anomalous water reservoir, Sarez Lake, in the Pamir area. Located deep in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan, Sarez Lake was created in 1911 when a strong earthquake triggered a massive landslide that, in turn, became a huge dam along the Murghob River, now called the Usoi Dam. The area still experiences considerable seismic activity today. It is possible that part of the right bank may slump into the lake, creating a gigantic wave that will top over and possibly breach the natural dam, creating a catastrophic flood downstream reaching all the way to the Aral Sea. Since 2004, the lake has been monitored for surging water levels or other events that might cause the dam to fail.

The lake is visible from the nearby Pamir Mountains, where a Soviet tracking station during the 1980s monitored American satellites associated with the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The powerful instruments, equipment, and devices of this unit had also repeatedly registered disc-like objects coming in and out of the lake. Indeed, according to a Soviet military report mentioned by Mark Shteynberg, UFOs have allegedly been monitoring Sarez since the early 1980s.

Here are two observations from the Issyk Kul area in Krygyzstan, both from 1990.

In February, in the Ak Suu Gorge near the Issyk Kul, local shepherds observed a large sphere at the distance of 700 meters. The sphere separated into four parts that flew off in different directions, only to rejoin half a minute later. This was repeated three times, and afterwards the sphere flew toward the lake.[19]

Later that year, on June 20, 1990, an expedition of the SAKKUFON research organization was on its way to the Tien Shan Mountains on the Sino-Soviet border. It was comprised of scientists, military personnel, civilians, KGB officers, and ufologists. Two members of the expedition

observed a triangular UFO at the Issyk Kul Lake. The object moved at a low-altitude,
turned around, and simply vanished. The UFO had bright luminescent lights, its altitude was about 20 meters and later it flew over the main group of the expedition.

Illustration of UFO over Lake Issyk Kul.

These are just two examples of the many UFO/USO sightings that have been reported from the Issyk Kul area, and many of which are similar to observations made in other Soviet lakes and seas.

Tibet

Mikhail Demidenko, a Russian writer who passed away in 2003, read Shteynberg's account and recalled that while on an assignment from the Union of Writers in 1986 in Irkutsk (Siberia), he spent some time at Lake Baikal. There he learned from local fishermen that some years before his visit that they observed how Soviet frogmen were propelled out from the lake to ten-fifteen meters up over the water. The locals never found out why this happened.

Demidenko thought it was the same episode Shteynberg had described, and contacted his sources in the highest echelons of the Russian Army, but all to no avail. Finally, Demidenko did speak with a colonel from the Chief Logistics Directorate who tried to help him. He learned that such an order would be kept in special archives requiring top secret clearance.

Demidenko had previously traveled through China to Western Tibet and when he became a well-known author and scriptwriter, had visited a number of countries in Southeast Asia and Europe. He collected materials to write a number of fascinating books including his last: *Po sledam SS v Tibet* (*Following the SS Trail into Tibet*) in 1999.[20]

Demidenko's book, *Following the SS Trail into Tibet*

In 1954, Demidenko accompanied high-ranking Chinese and Soviet military commanders while they inspected Red Chinese troops in Xinjiang Province (Uygur Autonomous Region) and Western Tibet, where the group spent a night in a Lamaist monastery. There, he met an old monk who was a

Russian-speaking Mongol. Among many fascinating subjects, the monk told him of the caves in the Tibetan mountains where giants three meters tall remained in an anesthesia-induced sleep. One day, the monk told him, they might wake up. Later, Demidenko heard stories that the Red Chinese troops had entered one of these sacred caves, removed one of the "sleeping amphibian giants" from there and publicly hanged it.

Demidenko had a number of high placed connections in Asia, East Germany, and the Russian armed forces. As Demidenko's well-researched book demonstrates, the occult-worshiping Nazis were quite aware of the legends of giants and underground cities in Tibet. That is why Hitler sent his SS expeditions to Tibet, as he was certain that these giant-demigods would confirm his theories.

Lake Baikal

Lake Baikal is one of the greatest and most magnificent lakes in the world. Its depth exceeds one mile, making it the deepest in the world (5,314 feet deep or 1,637 meters), and it contains more volume than any fresh water lake on the planet. According to the local legends, it has no bottom and is connected with all the world's oceans, seas, and rivers. In its great depths was said to be the silver castle of Erlik-Khan, the god of death among Siberian peoples, and Ruler of Destinies.

Strange events have been reported there for a very long time. Russian historian and writer Aleksey Tivanenko has researched the history of the Siberian lake. He and other people who live in the area frequently observe UFOs over the lake and over Buryatiya, a republic the size of Germany which borders on the lake. He notes that UFO accounts go back several centuries, being reported in newspapers of the 19th century, and also appearing in ancient legends of the Buryat people.

For instance, *The Irkutsk Chronicles* of N. S. Romanov (dating to 1884), contains a description of a gigantic glowing sphere with numerous portholes over Baikal. Many people saw it. At that time, of course, there were no airplanes, dirigibles, or meteorological balloons in the area that could be mistaken for UFOs.

There were also numerous UFO reports in the area in 1904. Black objects with searchlights in the sky; objects with strange "wheels" that rotated and opened multi-colored lights; cigar-shaped objects with "signal" lights; reports about objects that performed complex maneuvers and apparently landed as

well. There were those who worked for the Trans-Baikal railroad who also reported mysterious spheres with rotating searchlights.

Lake Baikal

A very unusual incident near the lake took place in May 1964. An anti-aircraft missile unit, located about 25 kilometers from Ulan-Ude, was attacked during the night of May 17-18. There was a glow that ascended over Lake Baikal in the evening on the 17th and spread over the area. It was not any kind of weather phenomenon, nor was it the sunset. The military decided that the taiga was ablaze. Later, they lost all communication capabilities; only strong interference could be heard on their various telecommunications. Over the horizon, from the direction of the lake, a fiery orange sphere had ascended. Like a living organism, the sphere pulsated, giving off a very strong radiant glow. It was approximately the size of the midday sun, but not as bright and could be seen without protective eyewear. The military unit

sounded an alarm. As time went on, communications went dead and only the regular phone line could be used to report to the commanding officer.

Meanwhile, the fiery sphere continued its advance. Its glow radiated like a burning fog, enveloping everything in its way. The commanding officer ordered that radiation be measured every thirty minutes and reports be sent to the command center. The soldiers put on gas masks and other protective clothing, but there was no radiation. The sphere approached the unit's position at the height of a telegraph pole, stopping along the way. As it approached, its brightness diminished, almost as if it had given away some of its energy by the radiance it had emitted. When it began to cover the military installation, the commanding officer brought a halt to any attempts at trying to establish what it was, and instead ordered a lock-down of the compound, virtually sealing it off from the outside world.

Reports of this incident were made to the local KGB, whose officers

arrived on site shortly after the incident. Despite the phenomenon being observed by many military personnel and the KGB being involved, there was never a satisfactory explanation of the events of May 17-18, 1964 at Lake Baikal.

Another interesting event occurred in the area the following year. In the autumn of 1965, a gigantic cigar-shaped glowing object flew across Baikal, leaving behind a typical inversion layer, as a jet aircraft would. However, absolutely no sound of any jet engine was heard. The size of the UFO was estimated to be around 250 meters. While approaching the Hamar-Badan mountain range, it dispatched three small radiant spheres from its bottom part; they were of yellow, pink and blue colors and they flew in different directions at the same speed as the cigar-shaped object.

Another story, apparently well-known to inhabitants of Buryatiya, describes how, on one of the mountains surrounding the Kudara-Somon settlement, a manned apparatus had landed. Humanoid beings dressed in shining spacesuits exited the craft. Some locals, including a district militia (police) officer on motorcycle, set out to the UFO landing site. When they approached, however, the object flew off toward Mongolia.

We know of another strange incident took place at the Domna airfield in the Trans-Baikal military district in December 1980, reported by Lt. Colonel (Retired) V. Pupkov. In the late evening hours, a UFO appeared over the airfield, as if out of nowhere. The object was red in color, luminescent, and in the shape of a ring. The UFO pulsated and emitted several reddish beams of light on to the ground. A MIG-23 was sent to investigate. The pilot, Colonel Antonetz, reported the unknown object to be at an altitude of 4,000 meters. [21] Then it slowly dimmed and disappeared from view. Soon afterwards, a special commission arrived in the airfield, investigated the incident, and took signed secrecy oaths from all of the witnesses. No one found out what happened to the official information that was collected regarding this incident, nor does anyone know where it is currently stored.

More recently, an article described recent sightings of orange spheres over the lake.[22] They moved noiselessly, approaching each other and then departing. A reader later commented (in the digital edition) that he had observed the UFOs the very same day. They followed one another and glowed like searchlights at altitudes much lower than those of satellites. But unlike satellites, they vanished instantly. He had observed similar objects in the previous year.

Giants and The SETKA Connection

The Borisoglebsk Giant case may have a direct connection to the mysterious swimmers. For this, we must delve into the secret Soviet SETKA program. Eduard A. Yermilov, a distinguished Russian scientist from Gorky with the prestigious Radio-Physics Science Research Institute, had been involved with the *Galaktika-AN* program within SETKA. In 1982 he investigated a case that very likely involved a similar humanoid giant.

Borisoglebsk, located in the Voronezh region, is one of the most active areas of UFO sightings, according to A. Plaksin, an expert with the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation and a former leading participant of the SETKA program. During the 1980s, military personnel in the area were seeing and reporting objects varying in size from that of a tennis ball to two hundred meters long, maneuvering at speeds ranging from 0 to 600 kilometers per hour. Moreover, they were reported at altitudes ranging from ground level to 20 kilometers. As a result, a special military commission was created in to study the phenomenon.

On May 26, 1982, one of these objects appeared at the time of a crash of a MIG-21 aircraft. Yermilov was involved in the investigation and stated that the aircraft suffered a loss of communications and subsequently crashed while a UFO was observed at an altitude of 1,500 meters.[23]

A search and recovery operation was organised. On May 27, the search team (comprised of Junior Sergeant A. A. Panyukov and Private A. Yu. Kunin) while in the Povorino area forest, walked into a clearing where they observed a humanoid entity. It was no less than 3.5 meters (over 11 feet) tall, and dressed in a silvery clothing which had a greenish tint to it. After the creature fled the site of the incident, the eyewitnesses observed an explosion behind the trees and a luminous object took off leaving a glowing trail behind as it disappeared behind the trees.[24]

Another interesting giant case highlights how a close relationship developed between local Russian military and UFO researchers (among the latter, Dr. Dvuzhilni, famous for research of the 1986 Dalnegorsk crash case). [25] Among the documents provided by the commander of the Far Eastern Air Defense District to local ufologists was one that mentioned an interesting case from 1990. A military brigade at the Timofeyevka settlement was dispatched due to an alarm raised by a sentry who fired a warning shot. He observed two beings both clad in silvery overalls. They were about two and a

half meters (roughly 8 feet) tall and they came from a nearby oak grove. Right after the warning shot the “silvery ones” immediately ran back into the oak trees. The soil was wet because of a recent rain, and the Russian counterintelligence officers who came to the site discovered large footprints of huge, shapeless feet.

More Swimmers

There have also been fascinating reports of sightings of creatures that may be those mysterious ‘swimmers.’ Yekaterina Vorontsova published an article describing a 1984 mission in the Baltic Sea in which the crew of a Soviet submarine observed unusual looking “fish” that looked very much like human swimmers dressed in silver suits. This sighting could not have been a case of mistaken identity, she wrote, as whatever these were, they were at a depth of 400 meters—far too deep for any human. The size of the swimmers was about three meters (roughly ten feet) tall. A Russian expert we consulted did not believe in the veracity of the information contained in the article. Our request to *NLO Magazine* to put us in contact with the author unfortunately did not receive a response.[26]

There have of course been other sightings. B. Borovikov had hunted Black Sea sharks for many years. Something happened to this fisherman that abruptly put an end to his hobby. Diving in the Anapa area, he descended to the depth of eight meters. He related how he observed gigantic beings rising up from below. They were milky-white but with humanoid faces and something that resembled fish tails. The creature that was swimming ahead of its companions noticed Borovikov and stopped. It had giant bulging eyes which seemed to focus directly on him. The other two giant beings joined the first one. The first one waved its hand (it was definitely a hand with membranes between the fingers) towards the diver. All of them approached the diver and stopped at a short distance from him. Then they turned around and simply swam away.[27]

D. Povaliyayev was hang-gliding over Kavgolovo, near Leningrad, in the early 1990s. There are lakes in the area and in one of them the skydiver noticed three giant fish-like creatures. He descended and was able to discern ‘swimmers’ in silvery costumes.[28] There have also been many reported UFO sightings in that area. Whether there is a connection between the UFO sightings and these most curious creatures we cannot say.

India: The Nivata-kavachas

Perhaps the answer as to the identity of the swimmers is found in Hindu mythology. Indra is the god of the firmament, the personified atmosphere. In the Vedas, he stands in the first rank among the gods. Arjuna ("White") was Indra's son and had four brothers. When he and his brothers went into exile for thirteen years, Arjuna continued on a pilgrimage to the Himalayan Mountains to placate the gods and to obtain celestial weapons from them for use in war. Although he initially battled Shiva (who disguised himself), Arjuna then worshiped him after learning his true identity. Shiva gave him the *pasupata*, his most powerful weapon. Indra and other deities also came to Arjuna and gave him their own powerful weapons.

Indra carried Arjuna in his transportation vehicle to Indra's heaven. There, Arjuna was immersed in learning how to use the weapons properly and promised Indra that he would never discharge these celestial weapons at mortals, "except when all my other arms should have been baffled."

Later, Indra sent Arjuna on a mission against the Daityas of the sea. The Daityas were Titans, descendants from the goddess Diti and the sage Kashyapa. They were a race of demons and giants who warred against the gods and interfered with many of their practices. Whereas Kashyapa's sons with Diti became Asuras (Daityas), his sons by Aditi (one of her many sisters) became Devas (Aditeyas). Nivata-Kavachas, translated from Sanskrit as either "clothed in impenetrable armour" (or, as "of practical application—layer—garment") were a class of Daityas descended from Prahlada, a son of Hiranyakasipu.[29]

Moving on, Hiranyakasipu, in his wars with the gods, had taken the sovereignty of heaven from Indra and lived there in luxury. After the death of his father, Prahlada became king of the Daityas.

According to the Mahabharata, this celestial race of Asura (Danava) demons were thirty million in number and lived in the depths of the oceans. The Danavas were the sons of Danu. They revolted against the gods but were defeated. After their defeat the Danavas were cast into the deepest oceans and locked there forever by Indra. Hindu mythology describes the Nivata-Kavachas as Danavas or demons that appeared humanoid with fish-like characteristics. In the Mahabharata, the Nivata-Kavachas' destruction is described as one of the exploits of Arjuna. Indra told him to do battle against the Nivata-Kavachas, his enemies, whose strength increased and of whom the gods were fearful. "My enemies, those Danavas, named Nivata-Kavachas

dwell in the womb of the ocean. And they number thirty-millions and are notorious and all of equal forms and strength and splendor." [30]

Arjuna used a car or chariot, a vehicle of some sort, driven by Matali. Arjuna discharged the weapons. To win the battle, he discharged "that celestial weapon which I had learnt from Indra—even the dreadful and flaming Visoshana." He also used "illusion-creating weapons" ("an illusion of arms capable of bewildering all beings") against the Asuras, who ("of unrivaled prowess") also used "horrible illusion weapons" as well as tectonic and ultrasound weapons of their own. As they battled with the illusion-creating weapons, the world around them "displayed itself," then would be "devoured by darkness," only to disappear from view, submerged underwater. Attacked by fierce Nivata-Kavachas, Arjuna fought them and sent them to the mansion of Yama, the lord of death. The final annihilation of the Daityas was about to begin. But then they used "illusion" and Arjuna could not see the Danavas any more.[31] At the end, Arjuna won the battle. The Nivata-Kavachas were destroyed.

But perhaps some of them managed to escape and operate in the oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes of our planet.

The city of the demons destroyed by Arjuna was the Daitya city of Hiranyapura—"on the other side of the ocean." It used to belong to the celestial deities, but they were overpowered and driven out by Nivata-Kavachas. Hiranyapura was the capital city of the Nivata-Kavachas and it was situated on the other side of the great lake. Could this be the Caspian Sea, the Aral Sea, or some other large lake—such as Lake Baikal? Researcher Jijith Nadumuri Ravi does not have enough information to say precisely which one, but believes it should be closer to the Deva territories in Tibet (near Manasa Lake and Kailasa range), as the Deva territories lay on the opposite side of the lake. It was a city superior to the one the lord of celestials, Purandara, had possessed, but only Arjuna was able to overpower the Nivata-Kavachas. "Then, in order to their slaughter, Indra rendered unto thee those weapons. The gods had been unable to slay these, who have been slain by thee."

As Arjuna's vehicle entered the city, he noticed that "when the Danava hosts had been destroyed, all their females began to bewail in that city, like unto cranes in autumn. Then, with Matali entered that city, terrifying, with the rattling of my car, the wives of the Nivata-Kavachas. Behold that excellent city, superior to the city of the celestials themselves."

But what if the city was located elsewhere? According to Jijith Nadumuri Ravi, it was. Naga refers to a tribe called Nagas who were a group of people spread throughout India during the period of the epic Mahabharata. They were also considered as one of the supernatural races like Kinnaras and Yakshas. Vishnu, the younger brother of Deva king Indra, had slain the Nagas in the great lake. Indra asked Arjuna to slay the tribe of Nivata-Kavachas, a clan of Asuras, living in the vicinity of the same lake.

Could this lake have been Lake Baikal?

Some time back in March 2006, Jijith Nadumuri Ravi added articles in Wikipedia speculating about the possibility that exotic tribes mentioned in the Mahabharata, such as Devas, Yakshas, Gandharvas, and others were aliens or an ancient human civilization that interacted heavily with aliens. According to the Mahabharata, their territory was in the Trans-Himalayan region. Ravi places them in Tibet, in the surrounding the Kailasa Range and Manasa Lake (Manasa-sarovara, Manasarovara), since these two are mentioned in Mahabharata as abodes of these tribes. These geographical entities have retained their name even to current times (Manasasarovara, Kailasa). Hence they are easily identifiable even today by the same name.

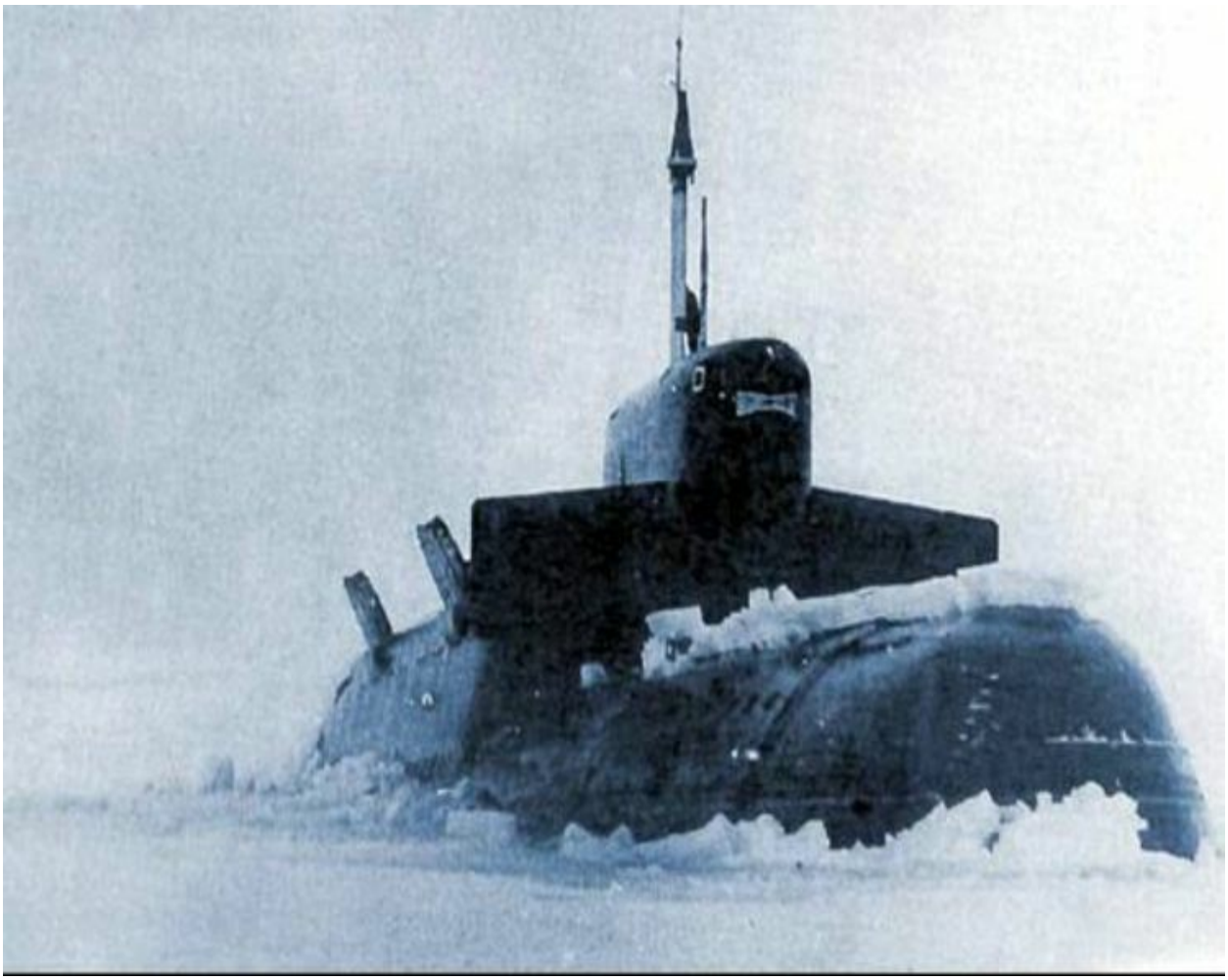
However, there is a tribe called the Manasas, mentioned in a region (Dwipa) called Saka-Dwipa, which is identified by many as falling further north, and so can be identified with places in Mongolia or Siberia.

In the ancient stories, Nivata-Kavachas lived next to a large lake, but it is difficult to identify which, one since to the north of Himalayas there are several large lakes in Tibet, Central Asia, Russia, and West Asia. Obviously, the Caspian Sea is the biggest of them. If we include the Siberia region, then Lake Baikal too is a possibility. Ancient literature describes Nivata-Kavachas as living not just near the lake but under the lake or sea. If we take this literally, then their city Hiranyapura has to be at least considered as an underwater city or, as some researchers believe, a submerged spaceship.

We know that the Nivata-Kavachas were destroyed by Arjuna. But, perhaps, some of them managed to escape and have operated in the oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes of our planet. Although this is an exotic and unlikely explanation, it is one that is still popular today and would be listed under the ‘ancient astronaut theory’ made popular by Swiss author Erich Von Daniken. Irrespective of any theories, it is clear that myths and legends of unidentified seas creatures are not just a thing of the past. They are still reported in today’s modern world.

Chapter 4 — Russian Submarines and USOs

Valentin Krapiva, a researcher and writer who lived in Odessa, Ukraine and passed away in 2013, attended many lectures presented by veteran officers of Soviet nuclear-powered submarines. Many of them served in the Soviet North aboard secret naval installations and bases. The lectures sometimes veered off from the planned presentations, and many spellbinding tales were told as a result. Some recalled instances of Soviet sonar-operators (military hydroacoustics technicians) who detected strange targets at great depths. They spoke of Soviet Navy submarines being chased by other objects. These pursuers could change their speed at will and were faster than any other vessels known to be in service at that time.



Soviet vessels that observed USOs and UFOs.

Lieutenant-Commander Oleg Sokolov confidentially told his students that while on duty overseeing his submarine's navigation, he had personally observed the ascent of a strange object in the water. He could not identify it, as his only view of it was from the submarine's periscope. This underwater take off, as he put it, occurred in the early 1960s.

Another interesting observation of a UFO was recorded by the crew of a Soviet nuclear submarine in 1965. This case is on file in the Colonel Kolchin archives. The submarine was to rendezvous with a ship in the Atlantic Ocean, and arrived at the meeting place 90 minutes early. This afforded the captain and his crew the opportunity to go up on deck, stretch their legs, and take in some fresh air. No ships were in the area, and the sky was starry and cloudless.

All of a sudden, the watchman noticed a cigar-shaped object moving noiselessly through the sky. Although the submarine was in international waters at the time, the crew assumed the unidentified object was American

and wanted to dive immediately. However, their onboard radar did not record anything, and the captain decided to remain on the surface. Suddenly three beams of light shot out from the UFO. This enabled the Soviet crew to observe that the object looked like an airship, but without any gondolas or rudders, whether horizontal or vertical. It was quite large, about 200-250 meters long, and Soviet submariners knew that dirigibles in use by the U.S. Air Force were much smaller than this object.

Then something even more disturbing happened: at a distance of only half a mile from the submarine, the UFO slowly descended to the surface of the ocean, with its searchlights still on. It then submerged under the water. As this happened, the submarine's sonar registered a strange and intensive hissing sound. This lasted for a few seconds and then faded away.

All those who had observed the UFO were ordered to report the details and provide drawings to the Special Department (i.e., Naval Intelligence).

Another interesting Russian USO account comes from the late Aleksandr Sergeyevich Kuzovkin. Kuzovkin was a well-known Soviet and Russian researcher of UFOs and was engaged in the study since his own sighting in 1964. He was a physicist and researched the "ecology of anomalous phenomena" for *Vokrug Sveta*, a popular Soviet magazine.[32]

Kuzovkin mentioned in his writings (*Ekho Planeti,* Russia, 1990) that while visiting Sevastopol, a port city formerly part of Ukraine and as of 2014 once again part of Russia, he met with local marine scientists who had descended into the depths of the Black Sea in deep-water bathyscaphes. There they observed an object that resembled a wheel, as large as a ten-story building, standing vertically underwater. The scientists saw and later described to Kuzovkin the "wheel" that would remain immobile for a while and then move into a horizontal position, rotate, and depart.

Yet another peculiar incident from the early years of the cold war took place in the territorial waters of the USSR. The account comes from a well-known Russian author and researcher of the paranormal, Aleksandr Petukhov. According to his research, the event happened in 1951, while Stalin still was firmly in charge of the country. A Soviet submarine encountered a strange underwater object of gigantic size which ignored all requests for identification, and instead continued on a steady course towards the nation's shore. The captain of the submarine then ordered depth charges to be dropped at the USO's location. The object did not react to the attack. It simply continued its course without a change in speed. After a short while, it

unexpectedly and abruptly rose towards the surface. Once it reached a depth of 50 meters, however, it stopped its ascent, changed course, and departed.

In July of 1978, there was an interesting UFO sighting in the Mediterranean. The coordinates of the sighting were 37 degrees N and 3 degrees 40 minutes E. This is just off the coast of Algeria, near the city of Algiers. The time was between 7:30 a.m. and 8:40 a.m. Soviet seamen observed a pearly white object shaped like a flattened out sphere moving in a westerly direction. Out of its bottom portion were three protruding constructions that looked like antennae. No reply to the radiogram ever came from the Academy. An unnamed Russian source also stated that *Yargora*'s Captain Cherepanov sent a telegram from the ship to the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow regarding the sighting.[33]

A series of incidents during the winter of 1979-1980 rocked the Northern Fleet, forcing the Soviet General Staff to take UFOs quite seriously. This was according to Yevgeny Litvinov, who was a Navy officer at the time, and did not previously believe in UFOs. Later, while serving as Chairman of the Anomalous Phenomena Commission of the Russian Geographical Society in St. Petersburg, he made a presentation about it.[34]

During a six-month period, said Litvinov, unknown disc-shaped objects overflew a Soviet submarine base at the Zapadnaya (Western) Litsa every week. Upon arriving, they would hover over the armament test preparation facilities (mines, torpedoes, and nuclear weapons). They also flew over the restricted airspace of the top secret Soviet military town. While the military personnel below observed the flying saucers, the anti-aircraft radars registered nothing. Captain V. E. Berezhnoy, head of the Naval Intelligence for the Northern Fleet, ordered that photographs of the UFOs be taken, but to no avail. All photographs taken of the UFOs came out over-exposed, much to the surprise and disappointment of the Captain.

The Soviets were busy trying to determine the nature and origin of the UFOs flying over their heads. Some initially suspected NATO to be the culprit, but it became evident that no potential adversaries, even the Americans, possessed such technology. To prevent panic, those in command told their military personnel that the objects were experimental Soviet-made craft. High-ranking officers knew better, however, and were unsettled by the implications.

Another serious incident took place during that very same winter of 1979-1980. The crew of a Soviet Project 671 submarine ("Victor" class sub, per

NATO classification) encountered yet another unknown object. The sub's commander was Aleksey Korzhev. The submarine, seeking to avoid detection by spy satellites, was approaching the base at one point on the surface and at others times submerged to a depth of two hundred meters. Then, to everyone's surprise, they received a report of an unidentified airplane straight ahead and above. The commander was surprised, as the weather was so bad it was thought that all aircraft would have been grounded. However, some fifty meters from the sub, a silvery disc was observed hovering above the water and slowly moving in tandem with it, staying slightly ahead. The crew was astonished at the site of the UFO. The object then emitted a beam of light, but oddly enough, this pillar of bright white light did not immediately reach the surface of the water. Instead, contrary to would seem to be possible, the light slowly descended. Korzhev immediately ordered a change of course. The disc then slowly rose into the air and disappeared into the clouds. According to Litvinov, the Soviets speculated that the UFO wanted to scan the submarine, as it was carrying the very latest in nuclear weapons.

Mikhail Soroka, a paranormal phenomena researcher from Kiev, Ukraine, described the same incident with some variations and additional details. As he recounted the event, the submarine surfaced and a large unidentified object appeared above it in the sky. This object was shaped like an upside down mushroom; the lower part was illuminated with white light; the part above shone with yellow light; the next part was a reddish light and the uppermost part shone as a bright red light. In his telling of the account, there appear to have been several vessels in the area, and the object approached one of them and directed a beam toward it. Then, quite unexpectedly, the object disappeared. Soviet Naval intelligence was concerned over the apparent interest by UFOs over military vessels and coastal installations.[35]

Later in his career, when Litvinov was part of the special commission of the Soviet Navy's Main Staff, he was able to read dozens of UFO reports that came from intelligence channels. One report described a UFO landing in the Motovsky Bay, located in the Barents Sea. This was coincidentally the location for a leak of radioactive material from a spent fuel storage facility that took place in the Motovsky Bay and Litsa Fjord.

Zapadnaya Litsa is the largest and most important Russian naval base for nuclear-powered submarines. It is located on the Litsa Fjord at the westernmost point of the Kola Peninsula, around 45 kilometers from the Norwegian border. The Litsa Fjord heads into the Kola Peninsula interior

from the Motovsky Fjord, just across from the south-eastern coast of the Rybachiy Peninsula.

Location of Zapadnaya Litsa, which is close to a number of UFO/USO incidents.

Few people in the West know exactly what was going on there during the Soviet rule. No radar station in the vicinity registered the UFOs. Soviet experts theorized that an ionized cloud enveloped the UFOs, making them undetectable to radar.

Another incident mentioned by Litvinov comes from the archives of the

Russian Geographic Society. It took place in the Mediterranean in November of 1976. The Soviet diesel submarine Project 641 (“Foxtrot” per NATO classification), navigated through the Straits of Gibraltar and surfaced in the Mediterranean Sea. It was at 2:00 am and the sea was absolutely still. The captain, the watch officer and signalman all came up on deck to verify the vessel’s coordinates. Suddenly they noticed a bright silvery sphere to the left just above the horizon. The sphere dropped rapidly and suddenly they all observed, right in front of the sub, on the water, an illuminated map of the Mediterranean. It appeared at precisely the moment when the navigator was trying to determine the sub’s location measuring the position of stars. The impression was that someone aboard the sphere read the Russia navigator’s thoughts. Moreover, the illuminated map also indicated the sub’s position. The sphere flew away and the map disappeared, all to the absolute astonishment of the observers.

Yevgeny Litvinov revealed in the interview that he was convinced that UFOs exist. However, he put all his beliefs to one side and tried at all times to remain objective during his research. Typical of intelligence officers, he has developed a complex method for selecting and classifying cases. His database contains 10,000 observations and incidents, and he developed a scale of credible authenticity based on 350 criteria. From this, he concluded that around 70% of UFO reports can be explained as either misidentification of known technology, meteorological phenomena, or simple wishful thinking. However, he argued, the other 30% are observations of bona fide UFOs. In his opinion, there are too many of them to wave away. Litvinov added that more often than not, UFOs are observed over military installations, areas of ecological disasters, and geological faults.

In the 1970s, reports issued by Rear Admiral Viktor A. Domislovsky, chief of the Pacific Fleet’s Intelligence Department, described an unknown, gigantic cylindrical object observed by the Soviet Navy somewhere in a distant region of the Pacific Ocean. The object was 800-900 meters long. When it hovered over the ocean, smaller objects exited from one end of it, like bees from a beehive, and descended into the ocean. Some time later they emerged from the water and reentered the gigantic UFO. After the smaller objects were back inside, the UFO flew away and disappeared over the horizon.[36]

Former Rear Admiral and nuclear submarine commander Yury Beketov also went on the record about USOs, in this case regarding objects detected in

the Bermuda Triangle. “We repeatedly observed,” he said, “that the instruments detected the movements of material objects at unimaginable speed, around 230 knots (around 250 mph or 400 kph). It’s hard to reach that speed on the surface—only in the air [is it readily possible]… The beings that created those material objects significantly exceed us in development.”[37]

Russian Naval Intelligence expert and Captain 1st Rank Igor Barklay described USOs in the same general region mentioned by Beketov. Barklay noted that unidentified objects were most often spotted in deep water off the Bahamas, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, and the east coast of the United States, and were typically near where military forces were concentrated.

There is a region known as the Devil’s Sea or Dragon’s Triangle, located between Japan, Guam, and northern Philippines. Some call it the Pacific Bermuda Triangle. Yuri Vinogradov, who served in the Soviet Navy from 1975 to 2000, and became Captain 1st Rank, discussed USO sightings in the region. He was a top expert in his field, had been involved in a number of submarine search and recovery operations, was a veteran of high-risk units, and participated in four long-range missions. During the 1980s, while participating in search and rescue operations with the Soviet Pacific Fleet (submarines and surface vessels had been used for such missions), Vinogradov twice, along with other officers, observed a USO on the sonar screen moving at great speed and disappearing into the depths of the ocean. [38]

In March 2010, Wayne Frey, author of the book *Russian Submarines: Guardians of the Motherland* (and now a member of Russian St. Petersburg Submarine Club) wrote to Paul Stonehill about Russian USOs. Frey had interviewed Russian submarine officers for his book. One was a former Captain 2nd Rank with 25 years experience aboard nuclear submarines of the Northern Fleet. Frey asked him if Russian submarines ever detected or made contact with submerged objects that were too deep, too fast, or sounded too irregular to be easily classified by conventional means. The officer’s answer was yes. Such incidents were recorded and handed over upon return. But everything had to have an explanation—anything unknown was simply classified as biological, like marine life. It was the time of the Soviet Union, the retired officer said, and that’s the way things were done. No one wanted trouble with the KGB. Therefore, on return to port, the records would be filed away without incident, since they were “explained” and of course not discussed.

In the following pages we shall have more opportunities to pay closer attention to observations and cases from the geographical areas mentioned in this chapter.

Chapter 5 — USO Sightings in International Waters

In August, 1965, the crew of the steamship *Raduga*, while navigating in the Red Sea, observed a remarkable spectacle. At around two miles away from their vessel, a fiery sphere dashed out from under the water and hovered over the surface of the sea illuminating the ocean in every direction. The sphere was estimated to be 60 meters in diameter, and it hovered above the sea at an altitude of 150 meters. A gigantic pillar of water arose as the sphere emerged from the sea and then collapsed some moments later. This observation was mentioned in a number of Russian publications and was taken very seriously by the Soviet authorities. It is yet another typical example of a USO report.

The Red Sea

What is interesting is that another source mentioned that six Arab fishermen were in the area. According to an article published in *NLO Magazine*, the precise date of the incident took place on August 2, 1965.[39] The fishermen were in a motorboat when they saw an oval object rise out of the sea about two hundred meters from their position. Their estimate of the object's diameter was the same as estimated by the crew of the *Raduga*, about 60 meters. Like the Russian crew, the Arabs noted that the object hovered for a while at a low altitude. However, instead of "collapsing," as the Russians observed, the Arabs saw the object rapidly ascend straight up. The actions of the object evidently caused a strong wave to hit the boat, which caused it to overturn. One of the fishermen drowned as a result. In the following months, according to the article, three more of the fishermen died, two of which were diagnosed with cancer of the blood.

In the summer of 1972, there was yet another intriguing sighting. A shape-shifting UFO was observed by Soviet seamen aboard the *Musson*, a Soviet scientific ship. At the time, the vessel was roughly 300 miles from Bermuda. Early in the morning, the electrician (named Vagin), the radio operator, and one of the navigators clearly observed an elliptical body moving through the

cloudless sky. This body moved slowly at a high altitude and moved slowly from the northwest to the southeast. Reaching a very high altitude, the UFO changed its shape to that of a wheel and then, distancing itself from the vessel, it again became an elongated elliptical body of silvery-white color. All three observers looked at the object until it disappeared from view.[40]

In 1976, the crew of the Soviet scientific research vessel *Vladimir Vorobyov* was in the Bay of Bengal when scientists reported a large, bright white spot revolving around the ship at the depth of 170 meters. Its radius was approximately 150-200 meters; it rotated anti-clockwise and separated into eight portions. The sonic depth finder registered the presence of something at a depth of 20 meters under the keel of the ship. The light moved in a wave-like manner and was shaped almost like the propeller of a boat. White, revolving, radial rays about 200 meters long were observed by frightened crew members. The phenomenon lasted for thirty minutes. This incident was reported in several Russian publications.[41]

Strait of Malacca

Yevgeny Lisenko, the captain of the motor ship *Anton Makarenko*, gave an interview during the 1970s about an encounter while sailing the Strait of Malacca in Indonesian waters. At 2:00 a.m., five members of his crew observed a gigantic luminescent phenomenon under the water that extended for many miles. Initially, they noticed glowing spots of silvery light below the waves. The number of these soon increased and they stretched out into lines, some six to eight meters wide and reached as far as the horizon. The distance between the distinct lines was about forty meters, or perhaps 150 feet. The effect was of an enormous wheel with spokes. The radius of this wheel was perhaps twelve miles. It became very bright, about as bright as if the full Moon had appeared in the sky. Not only did the lines look like spokes of a gigantic wheel, recalled the captain, but they moved as if they were. Seasoned Soviet sailors felt dizzy and became nauseous as if they were on a merry-go-round. The revolutions accelerated and the ends of the "rays" became bent. Finally, they broke into separate spots and disappeared. The crew observed this phenomenon for about 50 hours.[42]

Atlantic Ocean Sightings

Several intriguing reports came from the area of South Georgia Island in the remote South Atlantic Ocean. Located east of the Falklands, the UK-ruled South Georgia is lost in the midst of the southern portions of the Atlantic Ocean, and is one of the most remote regions on our planet. South Georgia Island lies within the South Polar Region. The Antarctic continent is 1,000 miles to the south and glaciers cover more than half the island.

A great site dedicated to Russian seafarers is www.morehod.ru. In its forum section, relating to "UFOs at sea" theme, we found some very interesting recollections of former Soviet sailors. On January 5th, 2011, one of them, who went by the name Delmar, mentioned that experienced seamen who had worked on fishing vessels near South Georgia Island had often encountered an underwater light. Its diameter was about a mile and it would disappear suddenly. Delmar said that similar stories were told to him by people who were not acquainted with each other. He also stated that while sailing at night in the Caribbean Sea on several occasions, he would see an object on the radar screen. It would be next to the ship, invisible to the eye, but quite visible on the screen. He was absolutely sure it was not radar interference. He also recalled that once in the same sea they encountered a phantom ship, sailing without any illumination at the speed of about eight knots. The ship

did not register on the AIS (the Automatic Identification System, an automated tracking system used aboard ships). Based on the radar return, its length was estimated to be about 100 meters.

Location of South Georgia Island.

A 2006 Russian documentary film about USOs, produced by Vitaly Pravdivtsev (aired on Rossiya television channel) contained interviews with Viktor Berezhnoy, Captain First Rank, and veteran of the Soviet Navy's intelligence service. Berezhnoy recalled periodic reports (i.e. accounts of eyewitnesses) he received in his capacity as head of the flotilla intelligence. He recalled that it would be wrong to think that the unidentified flying objects were observed only in the North. They were encountered throughout the Atlantic Ocean; including the southern Atlantic and even near the Antarctic. In particular, Berezhnoy remembered one case of UFOs near South Georgia Island. In one instance, an object rose right out of the water while local fishermen observed it. Despite strong winds, the object remained in the same place for quite a long time, giving them enough time to photograph it. This was neither a cloud not a hot air balloon.

Other strange flying craft were observed over the island, as well. Berezhnoy received another case in which a disk hovered over the island and

was visible for two hours, before and after sunset. The object was spherical, while an equilateral triangle protruded from it. As the evening became dark, this triangle not only glowed but other lights were observed on its underside, as if engines were at work, although the object remained stationary. For years, the authors of this book have heard of reports by Soviet captains about a cone-shaped, obscure cloud constantly hovering above South Georgia Island. One report contained a photograph showing a saucer-like object rise up from below the ocean's surface. The object resembled neither a missile nor a torpedo. As soon as this object rose above the sea level, it apparently became invisible to radar.

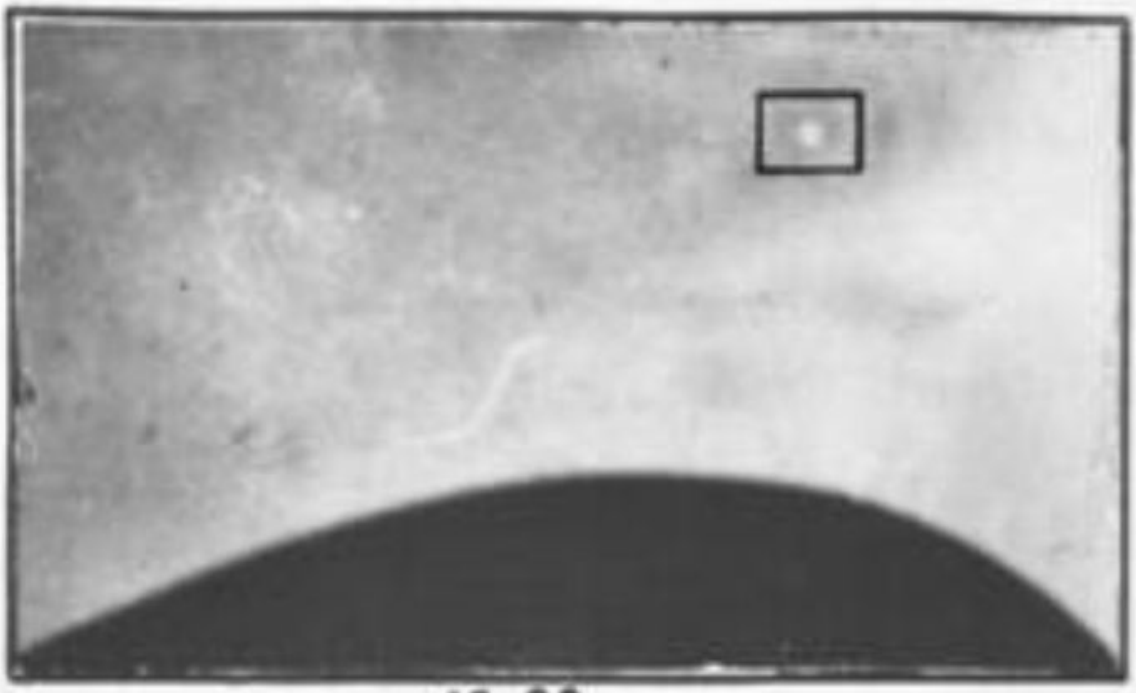
Soviet Navy, photo of UFO over South Georgia Island.

In December 1977, not far from South Georgia Island, the crew of the fishing trawler *Vasily Kiselev* observed something extraordinary—a doughnut-shaped object rising vertically from under the water. This object was very large, with an estimated diameter between 300 and 500 meters. It hovered at the altitude of four to five kilometers. The object remained over the area for three hours and then disappeared instantly. The report came from

Dr. Zakharov, the ship's medic, who described the object as a mushroom-shaped body rising out of the water and leaving a trail of smoke behind. The object changed its angle of inclination as it hovered above and then abruptly disappeared, leaving no trace behind. As the crew observed the UFO, they also noticed that the radar system became inoperative, while the onboard radio station and radio direction-finder malfunctioned. A report on the event was sent to the VSNTO (All-Union Council of Scientific Technical Societies) Central Commission for Anomalous Phenomena in the Environment.

Soviet Navy, photo of UFO over South Georgia Island.

Приложение 2



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Вид НЛО в вечерних сумерках

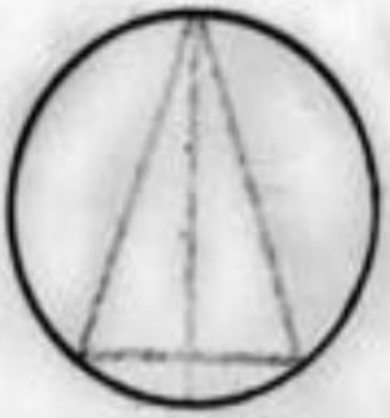


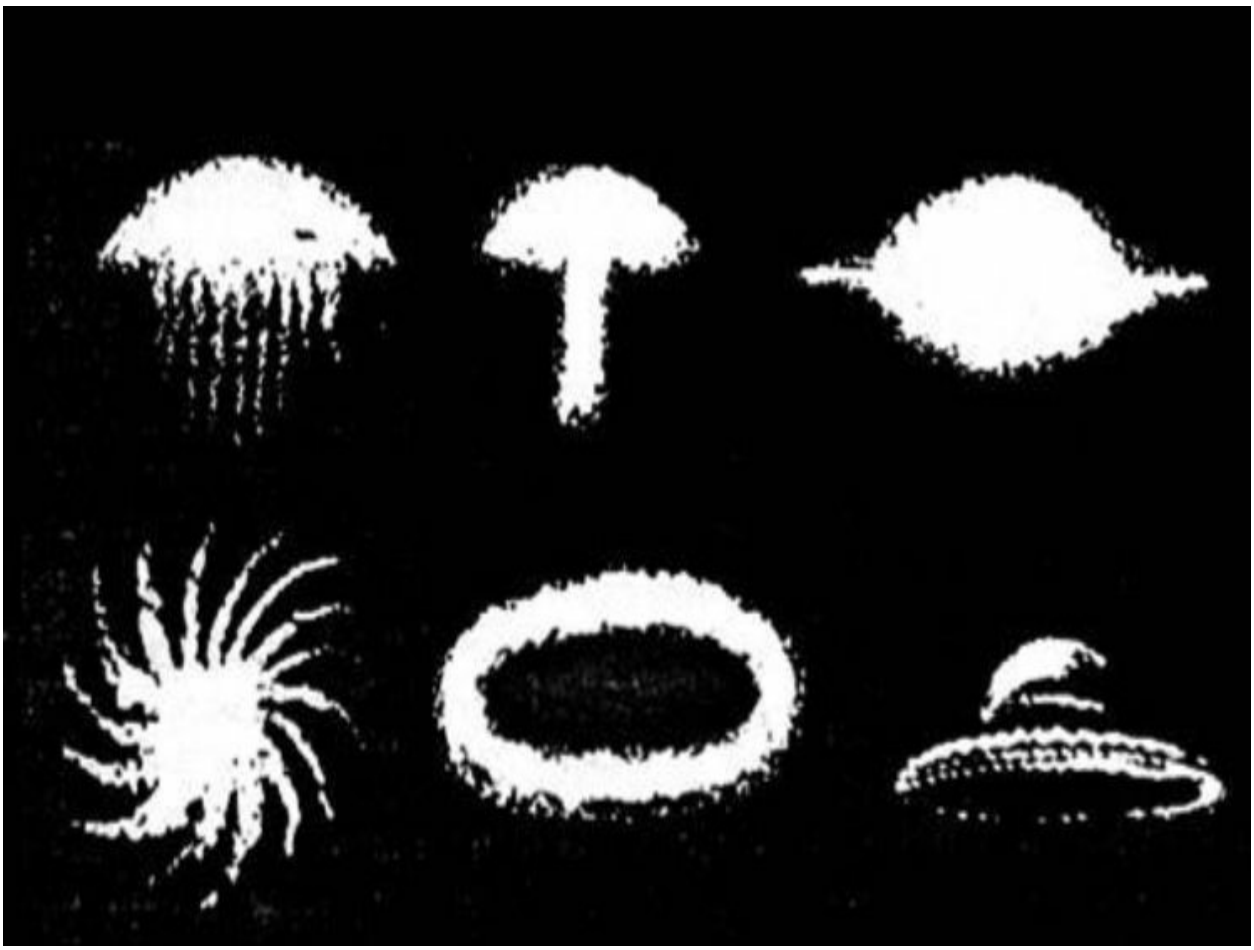
Рис.№ 1

Вид НЛО с наступлением темноты

Рис.№ 2

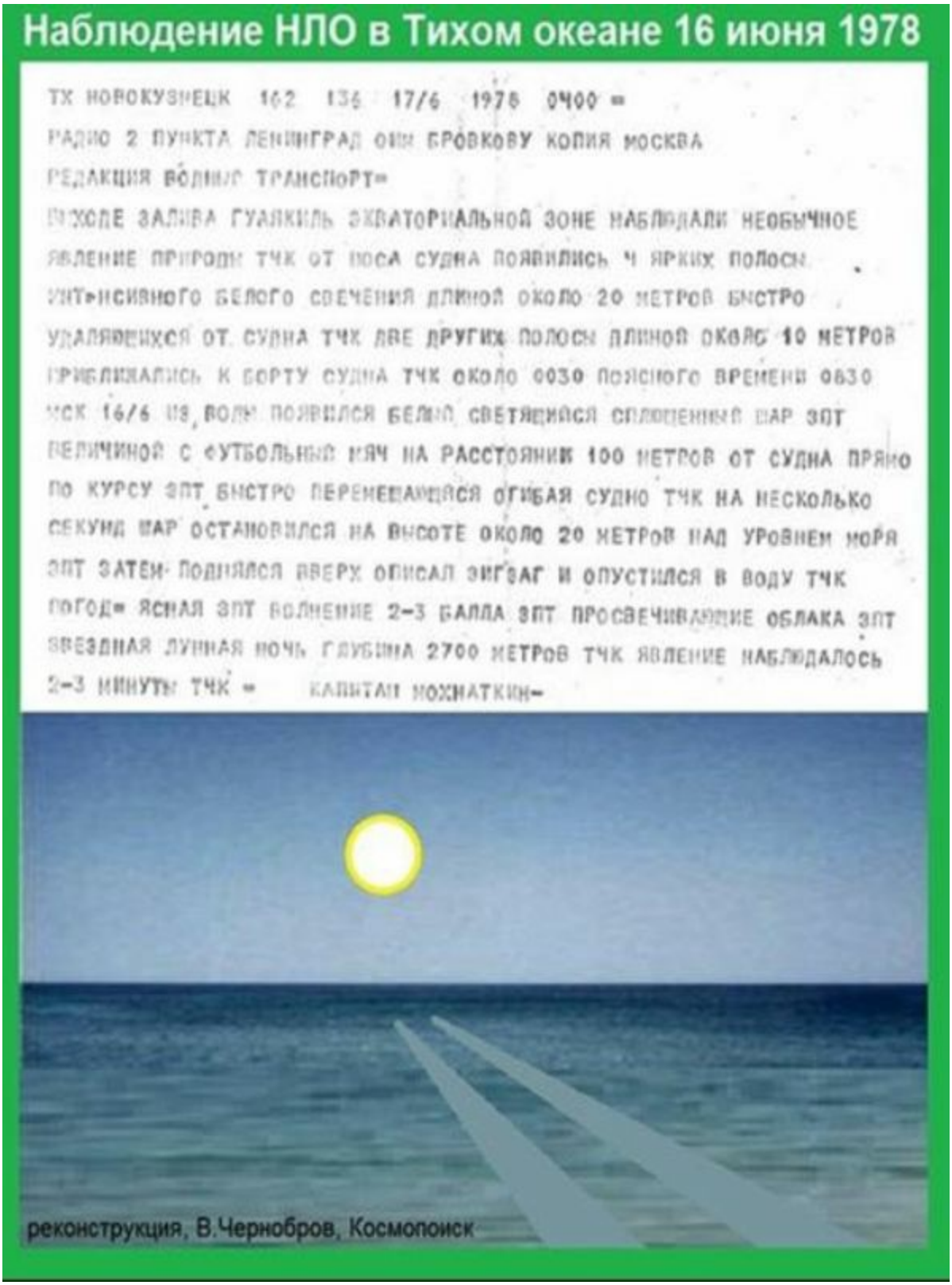
Soviet Navy photo and images of UFO over South Georgia Island.

Mikhail I. Girs was the commander of the experimental vessel *Tinro-2*, a manned scientific submersible. In 1977, he wrote about the apparatus and its missions, describing an incident that took place in the early 1970s while in the Atlantic Ocean. One evening, as the darkness was descending, the seamen observed a gigantic luminescent cloud. It was slightly over the horizon and its shape was almost perfectly round. In the middle of the cloud was something like a dot with a tail, moving chaotically. The cloud grew in size, while the tail constantly moved about. When the first cloud dissipated, another one grew in its place, and then a third one. At one point, they covered each other. The clouds were luminescent and resembled the Moon but weren't nearly as bright. The radio transmission was unaffected and magnetic compasses aboard the vessel functioned properly.



UFOs observed by Soviet sailors near South Georgia Island.

The following incredible incident from 1978 comes from several of the manuscripts and books of Feliks Zigel.[43] On June 15, sailors of the Soviet motor ship *Novokuznetsk* observed a UFO as their vessel was departing from the Gulf of Guayaquil, Ecuador. A radiogram was sent from the ship reporting that at night, four rapidly departing bright white trails about twenty meters in length were observed from the bow. At the same time, two other trails, ten meters long approached the vessel. Soon afterwards, at 3:00 a.m., straight ahead of the ship, a white luminescent sphere rose up from out of the water. It flew around the ship, hovered for a few seconds over the vessel at an altitude of twenty meters, flew higher, zigzagged, and then dove back into the water.



The *Novokuznetsk* sighting of June 15, 1978, reconstruction by Vadim Chernobrov.

Another case from 1978 in Zigel's files involves the Soviet cruise ship

Shota Rustaveli. While sailing the Atlantic Ocean, a large sphere flew over it. The passengers reported that their watches stopped working at the time.[44]

Another Soviet report which was quietly disseminated during the years of repression occurred on September 21, 1980. An observer on the ship *Viktor Bugayev* reported about a strange flying object over the Atlantic Ocean. It resembled a cone-shaped cigar and moved at a very slow speed from southwest to northeast. Its front section was luminescent due to large fiery shaft of light which appeared to be directed behind the ship. The object had a dark stripe across its middle, with a thickness about one-sixth the length of its body. After flying a certain distance, the object, having rolled a little, hovered motionlessly in the sky, rotating occasionally. Then, another identical object separated itself from the first object. Like the first object, its front part was illuminated by a large fiery shaft of light. The second object rapidly gained speed and disappeared to the northwest. The first object, still hovering, turned off its shaft of light and took on the appearance of aluminum color. It started moving to the northeast, increasing its speed. The clear outlines of its body became blurry as the distance increased. The objects were estimated to be about three to four kilometers in altitude. No sound was heard and they left no trails. Thirty crew members reportedly observed the objects.[45]

Mediterranean and Adriatic Reports

Alexander G. Globa, a seaman from the Soviet tanker *Gori*, provided testimony concerning a remarkable encounter from June 1984.[46] At 16:00 hours (4 p.m.), the *Gori* was twenty nautical miles from the Straits of Gibraltar, on the western edge of the Mediterranean Sea. Globa was on duty, accompanied by Second-in-Command S. Bolotov. The two were standing watch at the left bridge extension wing when they observed a strange multicolored object. When the object was astern, it suddenly stopped. Bolotov was agog, shaking his binoculars and shouting, “It’s a flying saucer, a real saucer! My God, hurry, hurry, look!”

Globa looked through his own binoculars. Over the stern in the distance he saw a flattened-out looking object, no more than 20 meters in diameter. It reminded him of an upside-down frying pan gleaming with a grayish metallic shine. The object appeared to consisted of two semi-discs, the smaller on top, which slowly revolved in opposing directions. Along the lower disc were many shining, bright, bead-like lights along the circumference. The bottom portion of the UFO was a distinctive yellow described as the color of egg

yolk and looked completely even and smooth. Globa could make out a round, nucleus-like ‘stain’ in the middle of it. At the edge of the UFO’s bottom, which was easily visible, was something that looked like a pipe. It glowed with an unnaturally bright rosy color, like a neon lamp. At the top of the UFO was some sort of a triangular-shaped object. It seemed to move in the same direction as the lower disc but at a much slower pace. Suddenly, the UFO jumped up several times, as if moved by an invisible wave.

The crew of *Gori* tried to attract the object’s attention using a signal searchlight, but had no success. By that time, Captain Sokolovsky was on the deck with his men. He and his second-in-command were watching the object intently. However, the UFO’s attention appeared to be distracted by another ship which was approaching at the port side. This was an Arab dry cargo ship on its way to Greece. The crew of the Arab vessel confirmed that the object hovered over their ship. A minute and a half later, the object changed its flight trajectory, listed to the right, gained speed, and took off rapidly. Soviet seamen present noticed that when the UFO rose through the clouds, appearing and disappearing again, it would occasional shine in the Sun’s rays. The craft then flared up like a spark and was gone in an instant.

During the same month of June 1984, another Soviet ship reported an interesting unidentified phenomenon in the Adriatic Sea. The *Professor Pavlenko* was near the Neretva Bay (Bay of Zaton) when the crew observed a bright spot that appeared on the surface of the water with distinct radiant circles emanating from it, spreading over the water in a wide area at an estimated velocity of 100 meters per hour.[47]

More Strange Cases

Mikhail Soroka, a well-known researcher of paranormal phenomena based in Kiev, revealed to reporters in December 2007 that Soviet seamen had many encounters with unidentified objects. Such objects would sometimes appear unexpectedly, fly over the ships, and then descend into the water without making a splash. They could break through the ice in the Arctic Ocean and leave a bright luminescence visible at a great depth under the water. Sometimes these objects appeared as gigantic cylinders from which small UFOs would fly out from their bodies and plunge into the sea. Eventually, they would return to the surface and fly back inside the cylinder, which then disappeared beyond the horizon. During and after such objects appeared technicians noticed fluctuations in the electromagnetic field.

Such an event may have occurred in the Kuril Islands, off the eastern Russian coast. In one of the lakes there, an unfrozen patch of water was discovered in the shape of a circle with melted edges and an unusually high electromagnetic field. However, no witnesses were found to reveal what took place there.

Soroka described another interesting episode from 1968 that took place in the southeastern Pacific, near the South American coast. The Southeast Pacific region spans the entire length of the Pacific coast of South America from Panama to Cape Horn, encompassing tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, and subantarctic systems. Soviet scientists aboard *Akademik Kurchatov*, a scientific research ship, tried to lower some special equipment into the ocean. The measuring instruments they submerged were attached to steel cables. At a depth of 500 meters, one of the cables gave way and the equipment that was attached to it broke off. The same happened with other cables. When the cables were examined, they looked as if they had been filed through. But who or what would use underwater files to sabotage Soviet science?

We wanted to find out more about the *Kurchatov* incident and researched all available sources of information. Today, only its anchor remains as a monument to the vessel's former glory; it is located in Moscow at the corner of Nakhimovsky Prospekt and Novocheryomushkinskaya Street. But this was no ordinary scientific research vessel. Although its main field of research was the Atlantic Ocean, *Akademik Kurchatov* had conducted fifty voyages in all of the world's oceans and had participated in major international scientific programs. Its last one took place in 1989. The vessel was built in Germany, following initiatives of great Soviet scientists Papanin and Keldish. It became the leading ship of the Soviet Academy of Sciences Oceanology research. Indeed, it was a floating institute, well-equipped, and intelligently designed; it possessed state-of-the-art maneuverability, navigational system, cutters, lifeboats, and a helicopter. The vessel was fitted with seventeen permanently installed oceanographic deep-sea research winches used to lower scientific instrumentation over the side, enabling up to seven scientific teams to observe the underwater world.

Where exactly was the research vessel taking samples? We found an interesting reference in a letter published by *Nature Physical Science* in its July 19, 1971 issue (232, 61-62).

> …But during the third and fourth cruises of R.V. *Akademik Kurchatov* (1968) material from the South-West Africa and Chile shelves was recovered so that the process of phosphorite formation

could be traced in a more detailed manner.

The letter was from G. N. Baturin, a well-known Soviet marine geologist who, according to the prestigious P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, was the first to develop the concept of phosphorite formation in deep ocean zones. This reference does not confirm Kirillov's account of the incident, but does offer a possible location of the incident concerning the lost equipment.

Reports in Official Files

An interesting article published some years ago in Russia (the author's name is missing from all publications) was titled *Sovetskiye moryaki y leaysuchiye tarelki* or Soviet seamen and flying saucers. It mentions UFO sightings that were collected and sent to VSNTO (All-Union Council of Scientific Technical Societies). As we mentioned previously, in 1984 VSNTO established a Central Commission for Anomalous Phenomena in the Environment in the Soviet Union. This commission collected reports of UFO and USO sightings from the Soviet public. One such report came from a Leningrad mechanic, A. Golitikin. In 1980, he had sailed aboard the fishing trawler-refrigerator *Brilliant* with an incident that is covered earlier in this book.

It is clear from this chapter that both Soviet military, scientific, and merchant vessels have encountered USOs in many different parts of the world's great oceans, Experienced sailors from all backgrounds are as baffled as the rest of us when it comes to trying to identify the nature and origin of this phenomenon. One area of ocean, known as the Devil's Sea (or sometimes the "Pacific Bermuda Triangle") has a great deal of mystery attached to it. It therefore comes as no surprise that Soviet seafarers added their own accounts to it, as we will see in the next chapter.

Chapter 6 — UFOs and USOs in and near the Pacific Bermuda Triangle

Captain Yuri Vinogradov, mentioned previously in this book, declared that scientists believe there are USO bases in the Devil's Sea, the Okhotsk Sea, and in the Bering Sea. How else, he claimed, can one explain eyewitness testimonies recorded in military reports? He stated his own belief in the existence of an unidentified civilization that functions underwater.

On more than one occasion, Soviet seafarers observed cigar-shaped elongated objects that rose from out of the sea. The USOs would often silently hover over the ship and then either fly away or dive back into the sea. Vinogradov mentioned another fact he had personally observed. While on a mission in the Indian Ocean, he and others had seen a bright luminosity with narrow rays of light being emitted by underwater objects. The glowing rays were generated under the surface of the ocean, over some long unidentified object which would descend to great depths at great speeds. Observations and data from the onboard equipment indicated that such USOs were able to change their exterior shape and size and separate into several autonomous objects.

The Devil's Sea, also known as the Pacific Bermuda Triangle, is located in the Pacific Ocean around Miyake Island, roughly 100 kilometers south of Tokyo. Disturbing reports have come from this area. In 1978, a Soviet floating whaling base, *Vladivostok*, was in the Triangle. Aboard the vessel, V. Ustimenko had been successfully growing wheat seeds as part of an agricultural experiment. However, when *Vladivostok* reached this area of the sea, the seeds would not grow. Instead, they ballooned, burst open, and a white mass oozed out from within. People while in the waters of the Devil's Sea report feeling tired, worn out, and drained of energy. Some seafarers claim that they cannot find dolphins, albatrosses, or various other kinds of birds in the area.[48]

Devil’s Sea and Sea of Okhotsk.

Another region of USO activity is the Sea of Okhotsk, which makes up the northwestern part of the North Pacific Ocean. it is bounded on the west by Asia, north by Russia, and east and southeast by the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Kuril Islands. It is connected with the Sea of Japan by the Tatar and La Perouse straits and with the Pacific Ocean by passages through the Kuril Islands. Most of the sea is less than 5,000 feet (1,524 meters) deep (although its deepest point, near the Kuril Islands, is 11,033 feet, or 3,363 meters). It is the coldest sea of East Asia; during winter the climate and temperature over much of it differs only slightly from that of the Arctic. Every year, from November to June the sea is icebound with recurrent heavy fogs. This makes winter navigation difficult and at times impossible. Except for a small area touching Hokkaido, the sea is completely enclosed by Russian territory. Magadan and Korsakov, in the Russian Far East, are the largest harbors;

Palana and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk are also important ports.

In 1902, a Russian patrol cruiser detained a Japanese fishing vessel near the shores of Kamchatka. The Japanese captain vowed that he had sailed into the Russian waters by accident because his compass was broken. Later, it was determined that a large radiant cloud had appeared suddenly over the horizon and was the cause of this incident. Russian sailors had encountered this a number of occasions in the Sea of Okhotsk. Once, an unusual bright greenish-white light burst out over the surface of the sea. This glowing spot grew in size and slowly surrounded the ship with a fiery circle. It then separated itself from the vessel, spread out, and took just three minutes to reach the horizon. It left a bright reflection in the clouds like the glow of a large city.

The popular Soviet newspaper *Trud* had an article titled “Zagadochny svet v okeane” (Mysterious light in the ocean).[49] It stated that sailors and travelers who sailed close to the Kuril Islands often observed a bright spot that would suddenly appear in the darkness over the horizon. It would move rapidly and expand right before their eyes, often reaching a quarter of a mile in diameter. A pillar of light would shoot up from it. The compass’s pointers would move erratically, hair would crackle, long sparks would fly off silk garments, and some objects even glowed.

This phenomenon has been recognised by people who live in Japan and the Far East. They have a number of names for it, although scientists cannot explain it. Perhaps it is related to the following incident from over a century ago. In 1908, Russian steamship *Okhotsk* was in the Sea of Okhotsk. F. D. Derbek, a Russian Imperial Navy doctor aboard the ship, reported that during the night of October 22nd, at 11 p.m., a bright and unusual greenish-white radiance flared up under the ship’s stern. The glow quickly expanded and surrounded the ship. With the steamship in its center, the brightly lit surface assumed the shape of an oval. It moved with the ship for a while and then separated from the vessel, moving sideways and forward. The brightly lit and clearly outlined form rapidly distanced itself from *Okhotsk*, reaching the horizon within two or three minutes. There, it glowed brightly, reflecting its light on the clouds. This sighting was reported in several Soviet and Russian magazines.

More strange reports from the area became known through the turbulent years of the 20th century. In September 1950, during the Korean War, two Soviet fighter planes while in flight over the Sea of Japan attempted to attack

an unidentified object. The incident was observed by the crew of a Japanese merchant vessel. One of the planes, having expended all of its ammunition to no effect, approached the UFO at a dangerously close distance. The Soviet aircraft began vibrating unexpectedly and broke apart into small fragments. [50]

Kunashir Island is the southernmost link in a chain of volcanic islands reaching about a thousand kilometers from Japan north to Kamchatka. The islands separate the chilly waters of the Okhotsk Sea from the warmer Pacific Ocean and are controlled by Russia (but claimed by Japan). When the Soviet Union took control of Kunashir Island after World War Two, it used the military airfield for test flights over the Pacific Ocean. In 1953, Lyudmila Shevchenko and her husband were serving there when something strange happened over the island. An aircraft was ordered to land, the pilot acknowledged and headed the plane toward the airfield. The airplane was visible from the island, but as it got very close to the runway, it started 'disappearing.' Then, it just vanished, as if it never existed. At the same moment, radio communications ceased. The air unit's commanding officers contacted the Ministry of Defense. Soviet divers searched the bottom of the sea, but found no traces of the vanished aircraft.[51]

On September 10, 1972, the crew of the Soviet cruiser *Varyag* observed an object that fell into the ocean close to the Kuril Islands. Initially the object resembled a sphere, but while descending seemed to change its shape to that of cone. No splashes were observed as it hit the water.

There is a Koryak settlement on the shore of the Sea of Okhotsk in Kamchatka, with an unusual name Paren' (*young fellow* in Russian). According to Academician Dikov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, in 1977 a group of geologists observed a disc-shaped object about the apparent size of the Moon for ten minutes. Six rays of light extended from the object down to Earth.[52]

In May 1982, the Soviet frigate SKR-3 was sailing off the coast of Kamchatka in search for submarines when commander Captain 2nd Rank A. Sokolov and two crew members observed a cigar-shaped object, about 150 to 200 meters long, silently ascending from the water. The men watched it slowly rise and then hover at an altitude of 250 to 300 meters. Four lights then appeared in the aft part of the object and it rapidly disappeared into the atmosphere. Sokolov wanted to issue a specific report on the incident, but the only available entry that was even close (Number 16) had the description

“UFO landing on the water.”[53] When the ship returned to the base, he made his report and was ridiculed for it.[54]

There are other reports concerning sightings from the Soviet Kuril islands. One such incident from August 1982 was reported by N.S. Krokhmalev.[55] He was aboard the vessel *Nikolai Boshnyak* in the Shikotan Island area, moving slowly between the islands of Iturup and Kunashir heading toward the Yekaterina Strait. The watch commander invited the crew on deck to observe a puzzling phenomenon. Although no onboard devices registered anything unusual, an elliptical circle with clearly outlined borders appeared on surface of the water around the ship. The glow on the water was similar to that produced by a TV set. They estimated its size to be 125 meters long and 74 meters wide. No sounds could be heard other than the ship’s engines. The circle on the surface of the sea accompanied the Soviet vessel for two hours and then disappeared suddenly. At the same time a perfect round circle was also observed around the moon. Krokhmalev recalled having feelings of depression and anxiety after the sighting was over.

Another sighting took place in late July 1983, two miles from Shikotan Island. *Zenit*, a fishing vessel from the Sakhalin Island, was moored near the island and waited for the opportunity to load cargo aboard. Six crewmen stood on the deck. The sun was not yet out, the sea was calm, and a light early morning haze covered the horizon. Suddenly the crewmen saw a bright orange-colored sphere moving slowly, low over the horizon. The sphere was quite large—ten times larger than the apparent size of the Moon. For two minutes, they watched the glowing sphere move slowly from the north toward the south. It then disappeared as if it were simply turned off.[56]

Five years later, another unexplained event took place in the same location. In October 1988, around 9 p.m., the Soviet aircraft carrier *Novorossiysk* was involved in training exercises. The crew noticed a gigantic body with vague outlines rising from behind the island. Thirty-six lights were located geometrically throughout the object. The object was visible for 15 minutes, when a K-27 helicopter attempted to intercept it. However, the UFO departed too rapidly for the helicopter to get close to it. As the object took off, all the electronic systems aboard the ship went dead, its diesel engines ceased to function, and even the portable battery-operated accumulator radio stations would not work. A state of the art modern ship equipped with new electronics was turned into a heap of metal three miles off the island. It was completely defenseless.

Forty seconds later, the onboard systems came back to life, one after another. Meanwhile, radar had not registered anything on its screens, although many witnesses attested to the object, including fishermen on the island.[57]

On October 21, 1989, inhabitants of the Kuril Islands and the crew of the ship *Egvekinot* observed a strange red sphere with a black center over Shikotan Island. It moved low over the island at an altitude of approximately one kilometer. The center itself was separated into three parts by silvery rays or beams of light. Its glow was strong enough to be reflected in the sea. While the UFO flew overheard it was reported that the radar experienced some kind of interference.[58]

What a fascinating area these islands have turned out to be.

Chapter 7 — Kamchatka's Mystery

Kamchatka is one of the most fascinating regions of Russia. With an area of 470,000 square kilometers, the peninsula separates the Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean. Kronotsky Lake, the largest lake in Kamchatka, is situated in a region known as the intermountain depression. A chain of 16 volcanoes rests along the lake, the highest of them being the Dome of Kronotsky at 3,528 meters (11,575 feet) above sea level.

In 1970, a group of hydrologists were conducting research at the lake aboard a motor boat. Valentin Psalomschikov, a student at the Leningrad Hydrometeorological Institute, was there with a friend by the last name of Agarkov (no first name provided), who was a recent graduate of the school. Agarkov was engaged in research and headed the hydrological expedition at Kronotsky Lake.

It was a pleasant August day. All of a sudden, about a kilometer away from them, the scientists saw a dome of water rise up, out of which flew a grey-colored oval object. It was roughly 40 to 60 meters in diameter and rose to an altitude of a few hundred meters and was nearly overhead, about 70 to 80 degrees to the horizon. There, it hovered motionlessly. As it did so, the

engine of their motor boat stalled.

The astonished and undoubtedly frightened team watched the object for another minute and a half before they started to row away. Soon after this, the UFO moved away at great speed and disappeared from view. Once it was gone, the boat's motor started working. Agarkov reported that the following year two of the four eyewitnesses of the UFO sighting died under unusual circumstances.[59]

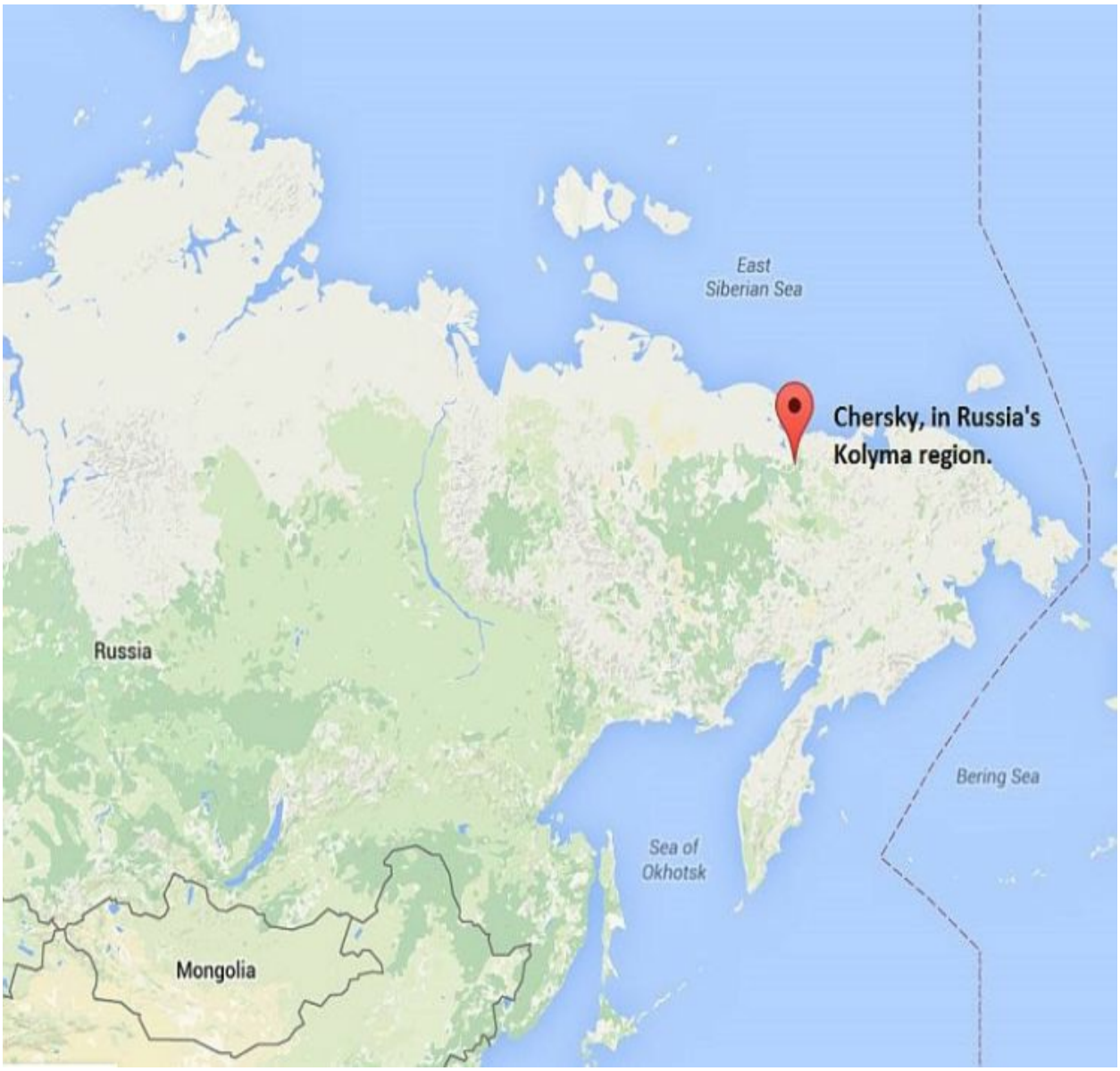
Illustration of UFO rising from Kronotsky Lake, August 1970.

Chapter 8 — The KGB Investigation in Kolyma

This harsh, severe, and vast piece of Arctic and subarctic territory is located in the northeast corner of Siberia. Kolyma is bounded by the East Siberian Sea and the Arctic Ocean in the north and the Sea of Okhotsk to the south. The remote region gets its name from the Kolyma River and mountain range, parts of which were not discovered until 1926. Later, the Soviet regime built 300 concentration camps in Kolyma. The Kolyma Road was built by Stalin's GULAG prisoners who were exiled to die in this frozen wilderness. It is called the Road of Bones, because bones of perished political prisoners are found there.

In his book *Tayni NLO i prishel'tsev* (*Secrets of UFO and Aliens*), Mikhail Gershtein described a UFO sighting report made by Pyotr Pavlov, who headed the KGB's operational section of Yakutsk from late 1950s to early 1960s. Many UFO reports were made during that period and they were sent to the KGB. No guidelines regarding secrecy pertaining to such reports were ever sent to local KGB from Moscow. However, local *chekisty* (KGB operatives) did ask the population to send UFO reports to them. Apparently, Pavlov received so many reports that he instructed Captain N. Nesterov to collect and classify them.

The town of Chersky is located at the mouth of the Kolyma River, very close to the Arctic Ocean.[60] One summer, during which the sun never sets, five or seven disk-shaped objects hovered over the town at a high altitude beyond the range of Soviet interceptor jets. They appeared in a straight line and departed the same way—in one straight line.



Location of Chersky in Russia's Kolyma region.

The KGB received another report concerning an alleged UFO landing on the shores of the Lena River, within the Arctic Circle. Nesterov was dispatched to the area and questioned five or six local witnesses. They told him that an unknown object with glowing portholes silently landed on the snow. The snow turned a reddish color for a few moments. After a brief stay, the object emitted several red flashes, rose into the air silently, and disappeared. The local KGB notified the Ministry of Defense, and a group of senior officers soon arrived in the area. They went to the landing site where they met with the witnesses and took yet more statements from them.

Here is a fascinating detail that shows the complicated nature of Soviet

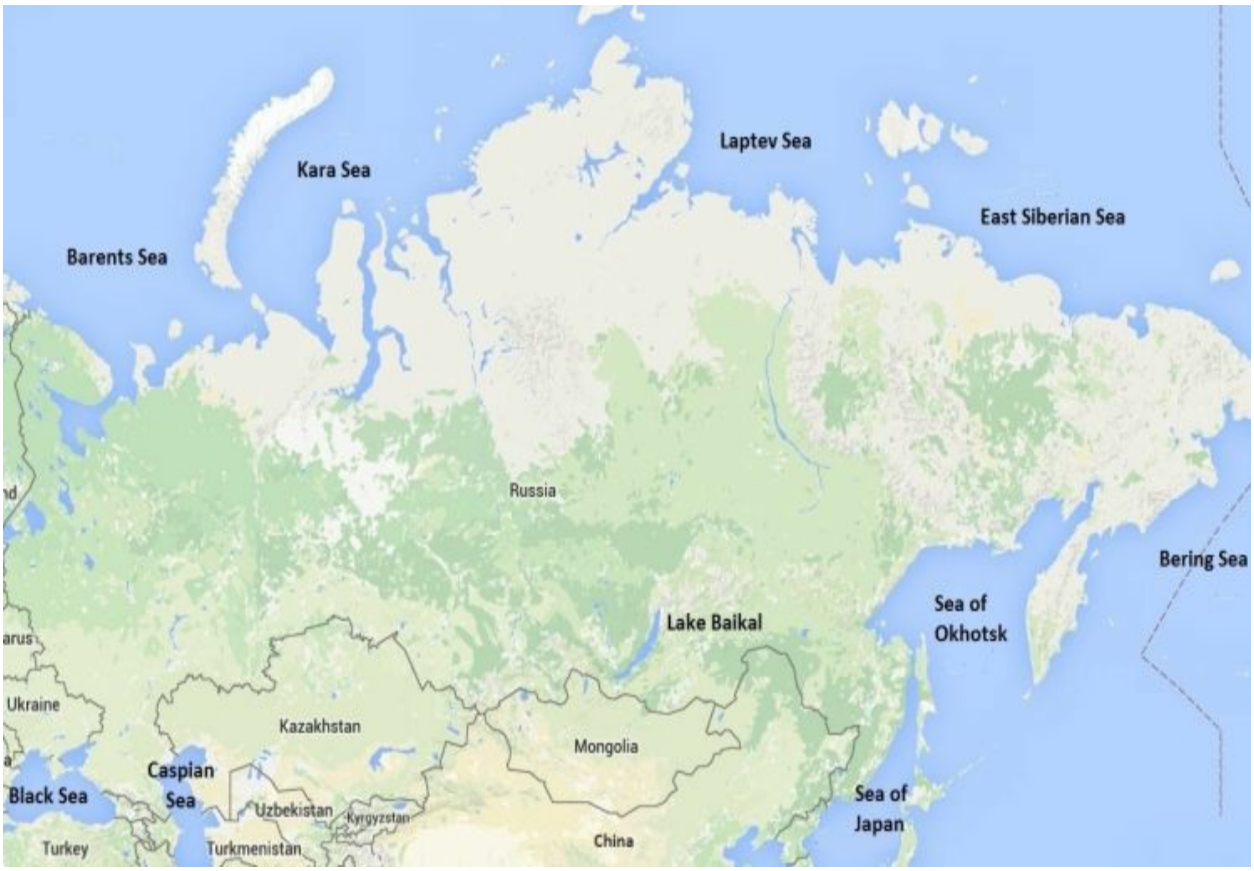
UFO history. Pyotr Pavlov's KGB office had prepared a report based on all the UFO sightings in the area, and included two photographs of a rectangular or rhomboid-shaped UFO taken in 1960 from the Tiksi settlement. Pavlov recalled being shown the two photographs of the area's Arctic meteorological station, which had been taken at night, seconds apart. Both clearly showed a rectangular object moving low over the horizon. The photographer did not see the objects when he took the pictures. One set of these reports was sent to the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, USSR. Another set was sent to the popular Soviet magazine, *Ogonyok*. Two or three weeks later, major Soviet newspapers, including *Pravda*, *Izvestiya*, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* and others, published articles by notable scientists that debunked UFOs. One article even rebuked the KGB of Yakutsk Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic—Pavlov's office—for sending the UFO photos to them.

Kolyma had been visited by UFOs even earlier, in 1950. Valentin Ivanovich Akkuratov, senior navigator of Soviet Arctic Air Force, wrote four reports to the Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding his encounters with UFOs. He addressed those reports to E. Loginov, then Minister of Civil Aviation. One such report (listed in Gherman Kolchin's books) mentioned an incident in which the crew of his aircraft had observed a disc-shaped UFO that appeared over the Nizhniye Kresti settlement on Kolyma (renamed Chersky settlement in 1963). The UFO hovered in the southern area of sky over the horizon for three days. It resembled the Moon but was smaller in size. The disc would show up around 3:30 p.m., stay for around two hours, and then depart to the west, sharply gaining altitude until it disappeared from view.

The local population certainly noticed this phenomena, as did Soviet pilots. When the report about this case was received in Moscow, an order came back to approach the object as closely as possible and study it. One aircraft at an altitude of 7,000 meters was able to get close enough for a good look as the object moved very slowly from east to west. It was pearly-white, possessed no visible antennae or fixtures, and had pulsating edges. At the end of the third day of this object's strange appearance, it never came back. The pilots had an extensive correspondence about this incident with the Main Directorate of the Northern Sea Route, also known as *Glavsevmorput*. The correspondence and related materials, according to Akkuratov, are kept in the Central State Archive of the Navy of the Soviet Union.

Chapter 9 — USOs, UFOs, and the Arctic Ocean

Russia has the world's longest Arctic border, stretching more than 10,000 miles. UFOs have been seen by reliable witnesses over the Russian Arctic territories on a number of occasions. E. Loginov, a civil aviation minister, once asked the legendary Soviet Arctic pilot Valentin Akkuratov to describe his four direct UFO encounters. Akkuratov did, and then mentioned that pilots had many more encounters but were hesitant to report them, since the Soviet press had decreed UFOs did not exist and those who reported them were ridiculed. The immense area appears to have attracted attention of visitors that have not as yet been identified.



The seas around Russia's coast and surroundings.

To the great irritation of the Soviet aviation, civil, and military officials,

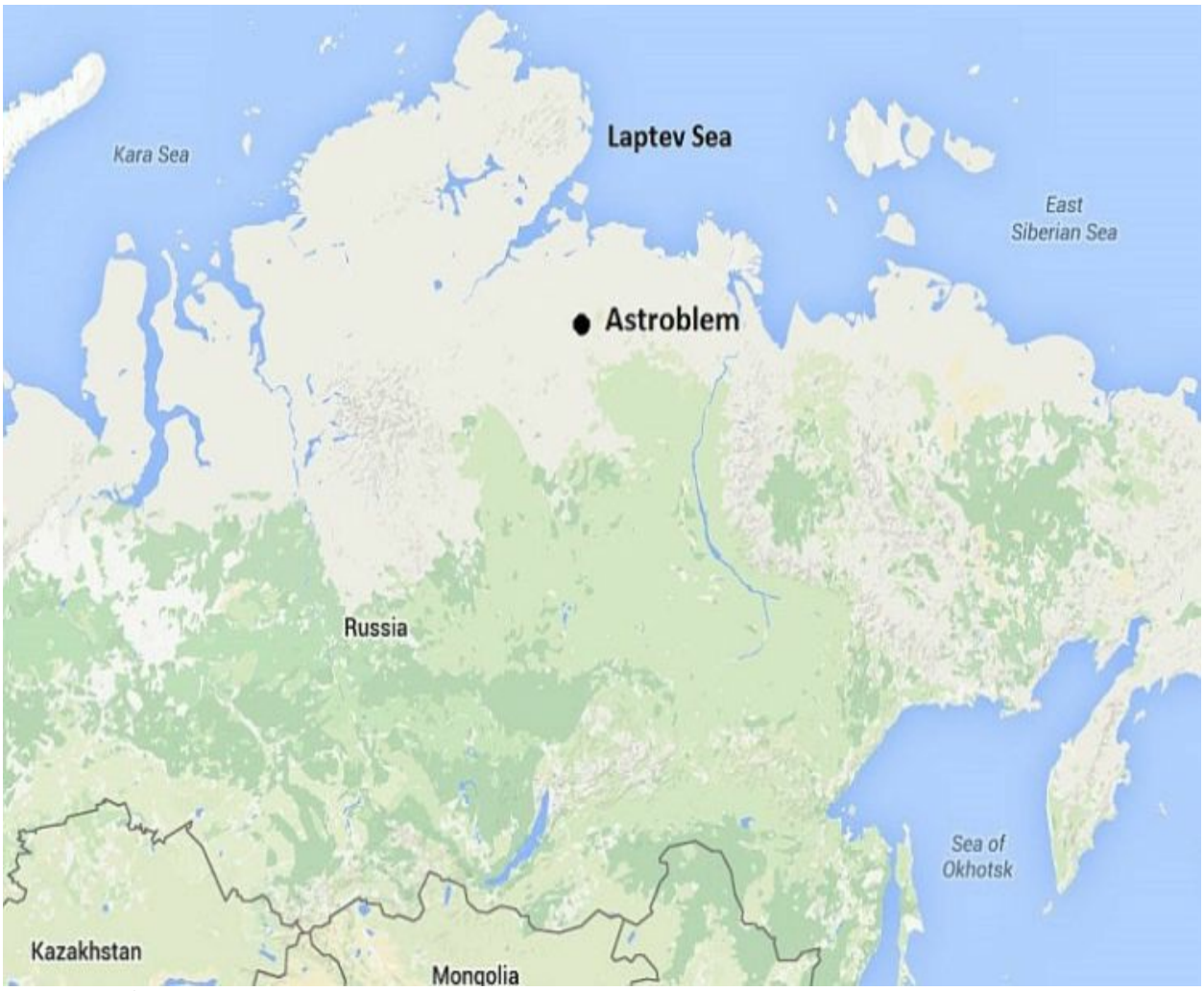
UFOs and USOs visited off-limits Arctic territories and classified installations during the existence of the Soviet Union. The highly militarised Soviet Arctic has attracted uninvited guests from outer space, mysterious ocean depths, or other dimensions, wherever the UFOs and USOs come from.

It has been speculated that the UFO visits might be connected to the huge mineral wealth of the Russian Arctic. The region produces enormous quantities of oil and natural gas. There are also plentiful deposits of nickel, gold, copper, coal, uranium, tungsten, and diamonds.

The Popigai Astrobleme

In 1946, Soviet geologist D. Kozhevin discovered a gigantic crater in the Popigai River basin of Siberia. The Popigai crater, 100 meters in diameter, was presumed to have been volcanic in origin, but the Soviet geologist Victor Masaitis proved that it is an ancient impact crater. Over 35 million years ago, during the late Eocene epoch, an asteroid of about seven kilometers in diameter smashed into the northern end of the Asian continent near the Laptev Sea. The explosion was so great as to cause earthquakes around the planet. The impact caused dynamic pressures and temperatures as high as 2000 degrees Celsius, shock compression and melting, and displacement and ejection of material. Rocks were crushed into dust; gas and new rock formations were created.

The well-preserved Popigai impact structure is located on the northeastern slope of the Anabar shield in Northern Siberia, above the Arctic Circle. It is northeast of the secretive Russian city of Norilsk, which is closed off to foreigners, and about four hours away by helicopter from Khatanga—the only way for scientists to reach the area. The swift Popigai River, right-hand tributary the Khatanga River, runs all the way through the crater. The astrobleme (star wound) is located in the estuary of Rassokha in the Popigai River. There, the monotonous tundra changes to swamps, lakes, hills, and cliffs. Nomads and domesticated reindeer meander through the precious crater with a local population of about 400 humans and 6,000 animals.



Location of the Astrobleme.

In the 1970s, Soviet geologist Victor Masaitis and his colleagues discovered something beneath the ancient asteroid crater: a gigantic diamond field contains trillions of carats. The presence of these diamonds was a state secret until 2012.[61] Although Western reporters believe that virtually all scientific data related to it was classified in Russia, this is not so. Some Russian and Soviet geologists did know of the presence of the impact diamonds there.[62] What they did not appreciate was the super-hardness of these diamonds, which has recently been reported to be double that of normal diamonds, making them ideal for industrial and scientific use. They have abrasive qualities far beyond any other diamonds on Earth. They are impact diamonds—the result of a celestial body smashing into a graphite deposit at high velocity.

Let us look closer at the geographical area of the crater and the strange phenomena observed there.

The Least Explored Region of Russia

The Taymir Peninsula (usually referred to simply as Taymir) is the northernmost extension of the Eurasian land mass, located in north-central Siberia in the Krasnoyarsk kray region. To the East are the Laptev Sea and the Gulf of Khatanga. The peninsula occupies an area of roughly 150,000 square miles (about 400,000 square km), and is the least explored region of Russia. It can only be reached by sea or air. To travel in the Taymir, one would need to have access to helicopters most of the year. Geologists have only explored around a quarter of its territory, other scientists even less. But UFOs have a certain attraction to the remote Russian land. And USOs seem to like its cold waters.

The village of Khatanga is the nearest large settlement to the Popigai Astroblem, around 400 kilometers away. It has about 6,000 inhabitants of Dolgan, Evenk, Russian, and other ethnicities. The most remote settlement in Popigai is located on the border with Yakutia. It has roughly 350 people, most of them belonging to the Dolgan people, the last of the reindeer breeders of Eastern Taymir.

There are over 300 kilometers between the village of Khatanga and the Popigai settlement. Lifeless, rocky tundra, where winter gales preclude any movement of people or reindeer, is the norm. In the summer, only helicopters can cross it; more recently, river cutters have been used. Snowmobiles have been introduced for winter transport over the frozen rivers. For communication, locals use portable radio transmitters. The village, located on a bank of the Khatanga River, is considered to be a port.

The area has a bloody history, with its share of mysteries. According to the Semyon Remezov chart published in 1882, the territory between the rivers Lena and Khatanga was referred to as “Shamany” (*shamans* in Russian). The Dolgan were once shamans, then forced by the Russians to convert to the Russian Orthodox faith. But they never really abandoned their beliefs. When the Soviets took control of Russia, they tried to instill collectivism and Communist ideology everywhere, including in Khatanga. In early 1932, as a result of the Soviet government policies, the shamans and their people rebelled. They fought the regime and killed a number of Communist Party functionaries in the process. The OGPU (a forerunner of the KGB) put down the rebellion in June of that year.

Today one can see an old port in the village with barges embedded into the

ground, dilapidated buildings, dusty coal-covered roads, an airport with wood buildings, and sky-high prices for basic food and products. There is also a unique museum located in a horizontal ice cave. This is the Khatanga Underground Mammoth Museum, containing the remains of ancient animals such as mammoths that were discovered in the area.

The ground underneath the Khatanga River basin contains large gas and oil deposits, and amber is found on the shores of the river. But we really do not know all the mineral treasures of the Eastern Taymir. It is quite possible that the Popigai Astroblem and such treasures attract attention of the UFOs, or could be the cause of them.

If you want to have a chance to see UFOs in a remote Arctic setting, then Taymir, the Laptev Sea, and Khatanga are the places for you—if you can get there. You can forget about the secretive city of Norilsk: it is off limits to foreigners, fullstop.

UFOs over the Laptev Sea

There have been many fascinating UFO and USO sightings in the Russian Arctic territories. In this chapter we will examine two that took place in and near the Laptev Sea. The Laptev Sea is a marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean, north of eastern Russia between the Taymir Peninsula and the New Siberian Islands. It is icebound most of the year, and its shallow shelf sea plays an important role for the Arctic climate.

In 1978, while in the Laptev Sea, the captain and most of the crew aboard a Soviet destroyer saw a dome-shaped object at an altitude of thirty meters. It sparkled with bright yellow color and seemed to be semi-transparent. While the object was in view, ship's navigation system ceased to function. After a while, the UFO slowly descended to the sea's surface and glided across at great speed—all without disturbing the surface of the water. After the object disappeared from sight, the ship's system resumed normal operation. Another ship, located a few kilometers from the destroyer, observed what appeared to be the same object, described as a strange yellow-colored object that rushed by on the surface of the water.[63]

Another incident, this one from late October 1984, was recounted by Valeriy Lukin, head of Russia's Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) in charge of the Lake Vostok exploration mission. While many in the West are fascinated by that mysterious, gigantic freshwater lake miles under the Antarctic ice, very few are aware that the Russian scientist, a seasoned

researcher and top expert, personally observed a UFO over the Arctic Ocean. Lukin visited the editorial office of the Russian paranormal newspaper, *Anomaliya* and discussed his sighting. He and his colleagues were returning aboard a helicopter from the field work in the Laptev Sea to the base airport. They saw a very large congregation of people; everyone there was excited and seemed to be in deep conversation with each other. When Lukin's team climbed the air traffic control tower, they learned that the military radar unit had detected an object on the radar which maneuvered rapidly in azimuth and altitude. It then appeared to land about forty kilometers from the airport. Border guards reported that they could see fire where the landing took place.

The scientists decided to fly to the landing site of the strange object. When they arrived, they observed a bright sphere that seemed to radiate with an inner, brightly crimson glow. When the helicopter was just a few minutes away, the glow was extinguished. The scientists hovered around the area using headlights for illumination, but could not find the object. They returned the next day, following the same course, but found no trace of the object.[64]

UFOs Over Khatanga: Letters From The Year 1979

Files of the top secret Soviet UFO research program SETKA contained letters that were sent by Soviet citizens to various national newspapers. Editorial offices collected and forwarded many of these UFO-related letters to SETKA functionaries. One such letter arrived from Norilsk, although the envelope was eventually lost. The letter stated that military devices could not detect UFOs, but numerous objects had been seen visually and had been under observation. Any actions against them were forbidden.

On October 27, 1979, in the midst of a wave of unusual sightings in northern Russia, a UFO was repeatedly observed by the pilots of three aircraft on approach to Khatanga. The pilot of one aircraft, AN-26, stated that the radio compass functioned only when directed at the UFO. The story became known because the captain's wife worked with the mother of the individual who wrote the letter. After the incident, the captain came to their place of business (a pharmacy), told them what happened and drew pictures. According to the letter:

> ".. [the captain] observed a mother-ship, its hull 200-300 metres long and whatever was beyond was not visible. Three spheres were attached to it; each sphere had three portholes, they illuminated the visible part of the rocket (sic) and below were the rocket's sockets that radiated light."

The object was observed in flight at a distance of a mere kilometer. When it flew toward the aircraft, the AN-26 tried to change course by veering to the left, but the UFO stayed with it. The object flew over the airplane and also around it.

The UFO then flew from Khatanga to Norilsk, which is 597 kilometers away. The object covered this distance in three minutes, giving it an average speed of 199 kilometers per minute, or nearly 12,000 kph and over 7,400 mph. It also was seen at Alykel more than once. The airplane on approach there changed course repeatedly in an attempt to land. This spectacle was seen by many inhabitants, including workers of the Messoyakha gas field. The object was absolutely silent, with the ability to move at any angle. Hundreds of meters of tape were recorded, which included conversations with pilots, air traffic controllers, military personnel, and KGB personnel. Astrophysicists and party officials arrived later to the area. Everyone who observed the UFO was convinced that it was not a natural phenomenon, but something made by intelligent beings.[65]

Another letter, dated December 17, 1979, was sent to *Tekhnika-Molozyozhi* magazine, and was written by Anatoly Golts.[66] He was the foreman of a team of fishermen and hunters in a small settlement of Staroribnoye, in the Khatanga district near Khatanga Bay.

Golts stated that he and his team repeatedly observed “extraterrestrial apparatuses.” In his opinion, there could be no other explanation. These objects were spheres that were only seen at night, and would then make the area as bright as daylight. These “wonders,” as he called them, initially emerged in the area by falling “from space” as multicolored spheres of different sizes. They could be as high as the normal altitude of aircraft or very low above the ground. When one of these UFOs was motionless, he wrote, it would look like a luminous sphere. If it began to move quietly, a flare like a star would appear in its center. When it moved quickly, as when it would abruptly ascend, it would light up. When the sphere gained altitude, it looked like a star in motion. It never made a sound, and would at times disappear. Golts added that streams of gas would flow down from the sphere which the wind would disperse.

On one occasion, during the evening, Golts observed a sphere hovering ten meters from the ice cover. When he began approaching it in his Buran all-terrain vehicle, the object’s center flared up and it moved away. When the

sphere was right above Golts, he stopped, exited the vehicle, stepped inside an area illuminated by headlights and raised his hands to demonstrate that he was not armed. With full awareness of how comical the situation was, Golts nevertheless addressed the object: “Hey, extraterrestrials! A son of Earth speaks to you. Do not be cowards and thieves. Come down, I want to talk with you.” He surmised that at the very least they viewed him as a savage, as he was dressed in disheveled clothing. But as Golts spoke his words, another identical sphere flared up in the darkness. Then the two took off, seemingly in the direction of the Moon and vanished in its light.

On another occasion, Golts and his team saw two lights, like headlights, moving above the ground, making no noise and leaving no trace. The dogs appeared to sense the lights before seeing them; they turned their heads and became agitated.

Polar Night, 1981

Russia’s top UFO expert, Mikhail Gershtein, published information about an interesting event from January 1981.[67] The witness was A. Bindas, who recalled observing a radiant object over the village of Khatanga during the polar night. At first, Bindas assumed it was a lantern, but as the object approached he realized this was not so. The object would abruptly disappear and reappear, and seemed to hover at times and direct a wide beam of light towards the ground. Bindas could not discern any shape or outline of the object, other than that it was a shining spot. After five to seven minutes of observation, the object disappeared from view at great speed in a spiral shaped trajectory. Other residents of Khatanga observed this at different times, all describing it in the same way. Bindas himself saw it twice.

Soviet Meteorological Service and UFOs

Khatanga’s first hydrometeorological station was established in 1934, followed two years later by a hydroaeroplane unit. The stations did more than observe local weather. In the station’s archive is a thin file titled *UP (Unidentified Phenomena)*. According to S. Ignatiyev, head of the Khatanga Airport, Soviet meteorologists had often observed UFOs, frequently in the form of a radiant sphere. One such sphere was observed on October 22, 1979 by Lyudmila Kuz’menko, a weather forecaster, along with flight commander Aleksandr Bayazitov and other colleagues. It was northeast of their position, about fifteen kilometers from the village, at the fairly low altitude of 200-300

meters. The sphere moved toward the southeast for ten minutes, then faded and turned into a thin cloud, simply vanishing. The same was confirmed by the crew of an IL-62, flying the Petropavlovsk-Moscow flight at the altitude of 10800 meters at the time of the sighting. They were 300 kilometers from Khatanga. Another aircraft, an AN-26, reported the same phenomenon.

In October 1987, a team of Khatanga meteorologists recorded another unusual phenomenon. To the southwest, behind the Khatanga River, an unidentified object was seen descending at a 60 degree angle until it disappeared in an area of poor visibility low to the horizon. It was described as metallic-looking and of complex shape, primarily cylindrical but with a dome at the top. The object's movements were accompanied by a smoky trail which extended behind. Air traffic controllers confirmed the presence of the UFO. Attack helicopters were dispatched after the UFO was detected, but they found no trace of it.[68]

Pilots who have flown over the remote Russian arctic regions have tended to observe UFOs more frequently than their colleagues who fly over more heavily populated areas. Several have included close engagements. At other times, encounters involved loss of electronic controls of various kinds, whether of airborne sound, or other kinds of malfunctioning.[69]

Ukrainian writer A. Kul'sky participated in the UFO research projects of the Kiev group formed to study of anomalous phenomenon. Although they primarily researched cases linked to USOs in the Black Sea area during 1985-1992, he recalled one case that took place in the freezing waters of the Arctic Ocean. One evening, during maneuvers of the Soviet Navy, crew members observed something ascend from the waters by breaking through ice that was three meters thick. Like a huge silver bullet, it disappeared into the sky. Because of their military service, these observers were familiar with launches of missiles from the depths of the sea. But this was different. There was no fiery rocket engine glow, and this object was much faster than missiles launched from underwater. And of course, missiles are not launched through thick ice.[70]

Mysterious Programs

Soviet leaders were always interested in the Arctic. The Northern Sea Route, which stretches approximately 5,000 kilometers across the Soviet maritime Arctic, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, had been carefully expanded and developed. Soviet leaders knew that the United States could

reach their Arctic possessions with submarines, long-range aircraft, and missiles. Hence, enormous investments had been made to develop science in the Soviet Arctic and to build up military defenses from the borders of Norway to those of the U.S. The Soviet Navy and Air Force in the North had been fortified. Soviet ice-breakers and specialised Arctic vessels maintained year-round navigation of the Northern Sea Route.

Throughout the years of the Soviet exploration and development of the Arctic, UFOs and USOs were seen and encountered. Yet, these were by no means the only unusual phenomenon in the Arctic. On February 20, 2000, Russian ORT TV aired a documentary about a top secret Soviet program named Sever-2 (North-2) charged with studying the region of the North Pole. Stalin had personally ordered work to start in 1948 and Lavrenty Beria, head of the secret police, was in control of it. Then, in 1951, without any explanation, the program was terminated. According to ORT TV, all materials pertaining to Sever-2 were removed from Soviet scientific institutions and still remain classified. But according to other sources, some information was declassified in 1956. The few available facts are presented below.

Three Soviet airplanes, with experienced Arctic explorers on board, left from Kotelny Island in April 1948. This is in the extreme north, well above the coastline. As they flew, they noticed unusual phenomena below them, but too much open water and moving fog prevented a good view. On April 23, at 4:44 p.m. Moscow time, the first ever landing at the North Pole took place. As the pilots left their aircraft, they encountered an unusual winter thaw that was more appropriate for mainland Russia. Although they were individuals with steely nerves, they became concerned, feeling a sense of imminent danger. They measured the thickness of the ice: at five meters thick, this was reassuring. The pilots therefore set up camp, made plans, and tried in vain to rest.

Then the ice cracked. They saw an expanding, rapid, and furious stream with steam pouring out from it. Their airplane was parked over the crack and began to fall over. In their desperate panic to save their aircraft, the pilots did not have a chance to see the strange, incredible changes happening around them. The first crack turned into a zigzagging and ever-expanding ravine that broke the camp in two parts. The men hurriedly transferred their equipment over it to prevent being split into two groups. Meanwhile, the ice cover continued to split into more fissures. Their landing strip was breaking into

fragments. Black rivulets of water were visible everywhere. The hummock with the Soviet red flag was swallowed by fog. Small ice flows were adrift all around them, rapidly carried away by powerful streams. They saw a seal swim near their ice flow, even trying to climb on but unable to do so due to the speed of the water. (The men later determined that the ice flow they were on was moving and rotating in a huge circle with a diameter of some 90 nautical miles.) The explorers were greatly concerned at what might be their fate. For several days, their situation was grim. On the third day, the speed of the circular drifting movement slowed. Ice fragments moved close to them, the area of water was reduced, and they felt the polar cold again.

What did the Soviet polar explorers encounter? Moreover, regarding the Sever-2 program itself, why was it stopped? We have no answers.[71]

There are rumors in Russia of a secret program that took place at the end of the 1970s in the Soviet North. The name of the program was Typhoon. It is not clear whether anyone today knows the full scope and details of the top secret program. In the framework of Typhoon, Soviet submarines operated continuously under the ice cover, capable of launching intercontinental missiles that could reach the equator. Experts in contemporary Russia are amazed at the scale and incomprehensibility of the mission. They are equally amazed by tunnels cut through the granite mounds, gigantic storage for spare parts and machinery, special nuclear-proof shelters, wonderful roads that lead nowhere, and splendid piers with communications built in the most remote areas. The entire infrastructure was never completed and never utilised.[72]

Even today, according to its leaders, Russia's most vital geopolitical national interests are linked to the Arctic. If it is true that dangers to ecology attract UFOs and USOs, then some of these mysterious objects may be interested in the legacy of the Politburo's fascination with the Northern Sea Passage, which includes one million abandoned barrels of Soviet-era fuel that have polluted the Arctic environment. The Soviet development of the North severely affected the ecosystems of the Arctic. The sharp decrease in military activity after the collapse of the USSR has left ugly dumps and trash all over the North.

This is now starting to change as Russia seeks to regain its control over the region. Since 1994, the Russians have established a year-round research base on the deep Arctic ice about 100 kilometers from the North Pole. Staffed with 30 polar researchers, it is called Ice Station Borneo. In 2007, Russian researchers from a submarine deep beneath the freezing waters of the North

Pole planted a Russian flag on the ocean floor. As for military capabilities: today, the Russian Navy has its Northern Fleet, the largest of the five Russian fleets, stationed at several large naval and air bases on the Kola Peninsula and along the coasts of the Barents and White seas. The fleet includes nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines which operate in the Arctic (including under the ice) and are protected by surface ships (including Russia's sole aircraft carrier), nuclear-powered submarines, and aircraft. Russia is ready to assert its interests in the Arctic.

Let us look at some more interesting Arctic cases. *Krasnaya Zvezda*, the print media mouthpiece of the Soviet Armed Forces, published a curious report on October 23, 1985 about a sighting that took place in the Soviet Arctic. According to the article, a number of seamen reported a bright, yellowish object low over the horizon, and then three more objects like the first one. A lieutenant who had been on watch observed the objects stated unequivocally that these were not helicopters. The article ended somewhat typically for the era, in which UFOs and USOs were taboo subjects: the lieutenant who made the report was shamed by a flagship navigator who identified the UFO as the planet Jupiter (without bothering to explain the presence of the other observed objects).

An extremely interesting Arctic incident took place in 1989.[73] The source for this incident was Captain 2nd Rank Alexander Sczerbina, a specialist with the hydrometeorology unit of the Soviet Northern Fleet. When he gave his interview in 1991, he revealed that his unit had been collecting data on anomalous physical phenomena since May 1980 as part of the SETKA-*MO* research program. Whenever an anomalous event would take place, the unit would collect information, talk with eyewitnesses, and attempt to obtain photos and drawings as well as reports from nearby military units. As per the instructions, all collected information and documents would be sent to relevant secret research institutes. The hydrometeorology unit itself was neither authorized nor capable of doing any independent research. According to Sczerbina, his unit never received follow-up on any of the dozen or so reports of anomalies they submitted over the years.

One of these took place in 1989 at Kil'din Island, Olenegorsk—a town in the Murmansk Oblast beyond the Arctic Circle in the estuary of Zapadnaya Litsa river. This is in Russia's far northwest, very close to the northernmost parts of Norway and Finland. It is also where the Northern Fleet has its largest naval base.

Sczerbina said his unit received a report from a submarine garrison about strange lights observed at night over a bay. There were three lights in a line at 30 degrees above the horizon. The lights sometimes were stationary, and sometimes moved rapidly around the sky. One seaman was able to take pictures, but the photo does not reveal the source of the lights. When their information was compared with media reports about UFOs over Moscow and Denmark at that time, Sczerbina's colleagues concluded that the cases were very similar. But the scientists who had received the report and data from the hydrometeorology unit kept silent and provided no feedback.

Another interesting event was recorded at the Bering Strait in 1990, when three UFOs were observed flying out from under the water at the strait's most narrow area, near St. Lawrence Island. Among the observers was Soviet academician R. F. Avramenko, who viewed the objects through binoculars. [74] As an aside, we can add that Avramenko runs Russia's Radio Instrument Building Research Institute, which reportedly has developed a plasma weapon capable of killing any target at altitudes of up to 50 kilometers.

Yet another unusual event reportedly took place in the North Sea on February 6, 1993 (although one source indicated it occurred farther north in the nearby Barents Sea).[75] During a powerful storm, a NATO squadron encountered three American destroyers. The Americans sent a radio signal, telling NATO's military vessels not to approach closer than three miles. The NATO ships lay adrift. Soon thereafter, sixteen flying craft of a bright amber color appeared over the American ships. They hovered for a few minutes and then flew away at great speed. A few weeks later, there was a report that one of the American destroyers had allegedly disappeared. NATO and Russian naval vessels jointly searched the area. The American destroyer was never found. On April 15, a Russian vessel reported that it registered an unidentified underwater object about 210 meters by 120 meters in size and moving at approximately 60 knots.

We have a report from another event which occurred on August 13, 1995 in the Karsk Sea, which is part of the Arctic Ocean. Alexey B. Blinov, a scientist who headed an expedition there, reported an episode that took place at around 8 p.m.[76] Blinov observed a bright underwater object moving perpendicular to his ship, *Yakov Smirnitsky*, just 100 meters away. Another scientist joined Blinov and the two watched it together. Initially, Blinov thought it was a beluga whale, but when it came closer it clearly appeared as a bright round spot, fluorescent and about three meters in diameter. It also

moved too slowly and evenly for a whale. The object approached the Russian ship, went beneath the vessel and some fifteen seconds later ascended from the other side. All the while, its speed and direction of movement were constant and unwavering. Blinov believed that the object was definitely of non-natural origin, as it moved vertically and also perpendicular to the current.

Future Conflicts

Russia is very serious about its plans to expand its military presence in the Arctic. Presently, it owns a number of islands in the Arctic Ocean. Of course, the country's northern border ends where the Arctic Ocean begins, but the Russian government has been arguing that its border should be extended northward. In 2011, Vladimir Putin stated that expansion to the Arctic region is imperative for protecting Russia's national interests.

The potentially enormous mineral reserves have been discovered in the Arctic region adds great commercial significance to its pre-existing strategic national importance. Russia hopes its claim will win it an additional one million square kilometers of territory and the rights to explore for more gas reserves in the energy-rich Arctic.

The nation's strategy for the second decade of the 21st century is to create a number of dual use facilities in the Arctic. Such facilities will be expected to host commercial craft as well as vessels of both the Northern Fleet and the FSB's border service. The possible sites are: Murmansk, Archangelsk, Naryan -Mar, Vorkuta, Nadym, Dudink, Tiksi, Pevek, Provideniya, Anadyr. These may be collocated with a chain of previously announced emergency rescue centers.

Beneath Russia's eastern Arctic Ocean is a mountain range known as the Lomonosov Ridge, which goes all the way to the North Pole. Who owns the ridge is a matter of strong international debate, since it contains an estimated 10 billion tons of natural gas and oil deposits. The Kremlin believes the ridge is an extension of the Russian landmass, and Russia's *Arktika 2007* expedition took a team of geologists on a six-week voyage aboard the 50 Let Pobedy nuclear icebreaker to the underwater ridge.

Russia raised the concerns of its Arctic neighbors when it planted a flag on the ocean floor under the North Pole in 2007 in a symbolic staking of its claim over the region. Russian scientists are at work to prove that the Lomonosov Ridge and the Mendeleyev Ridge are parts of the continental

shelf stretching all the way from Eastern Siberia. Canada contests this claim, and additional claims on the region are being made by Denmark and Norway.

A state's territorial sea extends up to 12 nautical miles from its baseline. All Arctic states involved, except the United States, have ratified UNCLOS and claimed the permitted 12 nautical miles territorial sea and 20 nautical miles exclusive economic zone, including the continental shelf. States can submit a claim within 10 years of ratification to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) for territorial extension, which is considered on a state by state basis. In March 2013, Russia announced plans to send an application to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to be granted the right to expand the borders of its Arctic shelf until the end of the year.[77]

The Barents and Kara Seas in Western Arctic account for the largest share of oil and gas reserves of the Russian Arctic shelf, and they are seen as Russia's future strategic oil and gas reserves. Scientists say that the shelf contains up to 70% of the region's underwater resources of oil and gas. A state can expand its economic zone if it is established to the satisfaction of the international community that its continental shelf extends beyond the 200 mile zone from the coast. The battle over the control of this treasure trove of abundant resources is just beginning.

Meanwhile, there will continue be a number of reasons for UFOs and USOs to keep coming to the Arctic.

Chapter 10 — Mysterious Chukotka

The Chukotka autonomous region is one of the 89 regions of the Russian Federation. It is located in the far northeast part of Russia, at the meeting points of two continents, two oceans, and four seas. Chukotka is the Russian territory closest to Alaska, divided from it only by the Bering Strait. About half of its territory lies above the Arctic Circle. Permafrost and tundra cover most of the region. Obviously, it has a harsh climate, but because it is between two oceans, the area can have extreme temperatures and complex

atmospheric weather patterns.

The people of Chukotka normally see UFOs early in the year, when the sky is constantly dark. During the white nights of summer, sightings are comparatively rare. One noteworthy summer sighting, however, occurred in 1990. A ship was harbored in the Ust-Belaya Village, a large rural community at the shore of the Anadyr River in Chukotka. There, its crew observed cumulus clouds that suddenly formed a perfect circle. In the center of the circle, they could see clear blue sky. Groups of objects or craft exited the circle and flew away, disappearing into the surrounding clouds. As the event unfolded before his eyes, watch officer Aleksandr Polorotov began taking pictures. He had previously served in the Air Force and knew the types of the aircraft of his country, but these were unfamiliar to him. He took a few pictures of the objects before his camera malfunctioned. When the film was developed, a cigar-shaped object could be seen on some of the photos. It had a strange luminescence and some there were a number of black dots visible in the distance. But the mysterious circle, which was also seen by seven other crew members, was not on any of the photos. The Soviet crew members experienced physical side effects after the sighting, including severe headaches.

To add even more questions to the UFO sighting seen near Ust'Belaya, it was determined that it came from the direction of the mysterious Lake El'gygytgyn. This lake, located 100 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle in northeast Russia (67° 30' N latitude and 172° 05' E longitude), was created 3.6 million years ago by a meteorite impact that generated a crater around 20 kilometers in diameter. An international expedition sent to the lake in May 1998 recovered sediment cores from the center of the basin, penetrating nearly 13 meters below the bed of the 175-meter deep lake using a percussion piston corer from the lake's ice surface. They discovered a striking similarity between the El'gygytgyn magnetic susceptibility record and the Bermuda Rise, as well as the Bahamas Outer Ridge

Many legends exist about this lake, including tales of strange disappearances, the presence of unknown life forms, and much more. According to one local legend, a shaman capable of levitation resides near the lake. Descriptions of his attire are similar to what modern observers could recognise as a spacesuit.[78] There is a region in Chukotka where UFOs apparently allow themselves to be photographed; it is bordered by Providence, Lavrenty, and Uelen. In the vicinity of Cape Shmidt (*Mys*

Shmidta), on the Arctic coast, UFOs are invisible to the naked eye but have been registered by technical devices. In the winter of 1991, radar at the Shmidt Airport registered the presence of a strange object 30 kilometers from the settlement, flying at an altitude of a kilometer and a half. A helicopter approached the object to within a kilometer. Although the helicopter's radar also clearly showed the object's presence, the pilot saw nothing.

In the sparsely populated areas of Vankarem, Ust'Belaya, and El'gygytgyn Lake, reports have surfaced of UFOs that have harmed humans. For some reason, UFOs seem to be aggressive there. Some encounters and sightings in the Russian lakes have sad consequences for those who come close to the unknown reality. We have already described the 1982 incident with the swimmers and the Kamchatka 1970 case. There is little doubt that these remote regions offer an insight into the UFO phenomenon, but because they are so remote, hard data is difficult to obtain from the local inhabitants and even more difficult from the Russian authorities.

Incidentally, Yevgeny Rozhkov, who published an article about the Chukotka UFOs in the July 1992 issue of *Vostok Rossii* newspaper, believes that there may be secret UFO bases in those areas.

Chapter 11 — UFOs and USOs of Russia's Far East

The natives of Priamurye and Primorye in the Russian Far East, an area adjacent to the Amur River, have not considered anomalous phenomena necessarily to be anomalous. They have known and accepted poltergeists, the Abominable Snowman, the so-called Flying Man, and UFOs. These peoples have their own names for such phenomena, as well as their own legends, testimonies, eyewitness reports, and accounts that have survived through the ages.

The legends of the taiga dwellers vividly describe heavens opening doors between different worlds, including the outer, original world, the underground, and the great beyond. The shamans have detailed descriptions of craft, as relayed via the ancient legends of their people. They believe that

flying saucers are nothing other than *agd ezen adani*, that is, ships of the "Sovereigns of the Thunder." These sovereigns sometimes took humans with them, regardless of the wishes of the humans themselves.

Before the First World War, local Udege hunters and their Russian Staroveri friends (descendants of religious dissidents of 18th century Russia) observed very strange phenomena while hunting together. In several localities, such as Annuye and Bikin, they observed strange aerial objects and three mysterious "bright points" that moved on or near the ground. The "goloan" was a ball-lightning-like object that moved through the sky and left a smoky or luminous trail.

The elders also told stories of the *amban khotongon*, or "Devil's fiery skull." Apparently, it fell down to Earth from a UFO. The skull was able to scare people to such an extent that they could neither move or lie down. To put it in the twentieth century terms, the object exerted adverse biological and physiological effects on human beings. It was observed that lukewarm water in the presence of the skull immediately began to boil.

Kamen'Ribolov is a village located on the shores of Lake Khanka in the Khankay region of Russia's Maritime Province. It was established in 1865 by Russian Cossacks. On June 1, 1899, in the late evening hours, observers saw a blue sphere, about 28 inches in diameter.[79] It flew from south to north near the moored steamboat *Kazak Ussuriyskiy* at roughly 2,000 feet altitude. [80] It was observed for about twenty minutes. Later in the evening, it returned, flying from north to south, at the same distance from the ship but at greater speed. It is reported to have disappeared eleven minutes later. When the sphere flew back and forth in different directions, as reported by three eyewitnesses from the ship, its color did not change and it emitted no noise. [81]

Terney is a settlement located in the northeastern area of Russia's Maritime Province, around 655 kilometers from Vladivostok. The land is comprised of hard-to-reach places, wilderness, wild animals, taiga, waterfalls, mineral springs, and beautiful lakes. One of these lakes is Lake Blagodatnoye. In 1956, dozens of fishermen who had worked at the lake observed an enormous UFO that crashed into the Sea of Japan. They described a silvery object with a diameter of 1.5 kilometers rapidly flying over them at the extremely low altitude of 600 meters. The object resembled a hat with red portholes located around its rim. The flight was accompanied by strong grinding sounds and thick smoke. While in flight, the object emitted numerous thin metal threads

that resembled horse hairs. The next day these were picked up by fishermen. [82]

The Zeya River is a northern tributary of the mighty Amur River, in the Amur region of the Russian Federation, nearly on the southern border with the Yakutia-Sakha republic, close to China. One of its main tributaries is the Urkan River, which runs between the Zeya and the Tynda rivers. Starting in the spring of 1970, not long after a 1969 border dispute and military confrontation between China and the USSR, UFOs began to be seen there. Border troops and anti-aircraft units of both nations paid close attention to the UFOs. Later, after unknown objects flew over Mongolia, which had very close ties to the USSR, troops opened fire. The Mongolians claimed that the routes of UFO flight paths crossed somewhere over Soviet territory, 1660 kilometers northeast of Ulan-Bator. While Soviet radar determined the precise coordinates, the operators could not locate any details. All that was established was that it was the same remote area of the Siberian taiga where UFOs had come from and vanished, not far from the Urkan River.[83]

Vladivostok is Russia's largest port city on the Pacific Ocean, the administrative center of the Maritime Province, and the home port of the Russian Pacific Fleet. According to Vadim Chernobrov, at the end of 1989, a triangular UFO was observed over the Tikhaya Bay near Vladivostok. It did not register on radar screens. Russian Navy artillery fire tried to shoot it down, but the UFO changed direction and at great speed departed towards the city. Naval aircraft that arrived in the area did not find the object.

1977 was an interesting year for UFO and USO sightings. Here is a prime example, described in a letter to the USSR Academy of Sciences. The date was July 7, 1977. The motor ship *Nikolay Ostrovsky* had left Port Vanino, a major port in Pacific Russia. Functioning year-round, it handles import and export cargoes with nations around the world as well as cargoes going to the northern territories of Russia. At precisely 11 p.m. local time, with cloudy weather and visibility of 5 to 7 miles, the *Nikolay Ostrovsky* was going through the Tatar Strait on its way to Port Provideniye. Then, according to O. Dereza, head of the shipboard radio station, a very unusual event occurred for the next 32 minutes. To the east of the vessel, some 300 to 400 meters, seamen observed a cloud-like formation in the shape of a rectangle, moving at the same speed as the ship. Dereza stated that he shuddered at the thought that whoever was inside the cloud formation must have carefully been watching and studying them. Although he could not see anyone in the

formation, he somehow felt that “they” could hear and understand Russian, and even read the thoughts of the men on board. He thought the perfectly shaped rectangular cloud formation could have been a spaceship from another world. Whatever it was, it disappeared at 11:32 p.m. local time.[84]

Another odd sighting in the region took place on August 2, 1989, in the area of Primorskiy Krai. Crew members aboard the Soviet tanker *Volgoneft-161* noticed an unusual sphere in the northern part of the sky, about 35 degrees above the horizon. It had a pale yellowish color and some sort of luminescence around it, like the Moon. The sphere moved northeasterly and ascended slightly over the horizon. Observers on board watched it for about five minutes before it disappeared from view. The captain of the tanker, O. I. Zimakov, wrote a report about the incident.[85]

Khabarovsk, 1990

The city of Khabarovsk is in the Russian Far East, along the Amur River at the Chinese border. On the evening of March 21, 1990, witnesses reported seeing bright red spheres flying in complete silence across the horizon and darting above the ice-bound river. Some reported a low-flying saucer with a bright surface and running lights along the hull, shifting around with its front end dipping and rising. Calls went to the military, the police, and government officials. A spokesman for Air Defense HQ told the local newspaper, *Suvorovski Natisk*, that a black cigar-shaped object 50 meters in length was observed traveling 100-120 meters above the ground. In its rear, something like a ruby-colored glow was observed. Even so, radars registered nothing. Among the witnesses were policemen who tried to videotape the objects only to have their equipment malfunction and suffer interference. One city hospital called for help when a cigar-shaped object hovered above it, causing panic among the patients and personnel. The UFO flew away when a patrol car arrived on the scene.

UFOs have been registered in the Russian Far East in the 21st century. Russian media reported that on September 5, 2006, residents of Vladivostok observed three radiant spheres, or perhaps one UFO that consisted of several parts. The next day, a Russian aviator called the popular local radio OKAY to report that what the people saw the day before were aerial targets for Russian SU-27 front line fighter aircraft. Locals insisted, however, that the UFOs did not look like targets. The Pacific Fleet’s anti-aircraft defense HQ informed *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reporters on September 8 that they had nothing to do

with the objects.

Retired Air Force major Roman Ronin, however, did reveal interesting information to the local newspaper. According to him, the UFO resembled a "chandelier" consisting of SAB-250 aircraft bombs, which are candle bombs that are often used for aircraft target practice. The SU-27 aircraft must have had powerful aviation cannons onboard—assuming that there really was target practice that night, and despite the fact that the Air Force typically issues warnings before their exercises. It would have also meant that the fighter planes would have to have been two kilometers from the target, even though no aircraft were seen that night. Moreover, even if the Russian fighter aircraft were concealed in the darkness, there would still be have been a huge explosion when its missile hit the candle bomb. But there was only one explosion, far away from the object. Ronin observed and counted four lights that approached the object at low speed; much less than the speed of a rocket or missile shot from an aviation cannon. Added to that, the unknown object periodically vanished and reappeared, as if turned on and off.

Other witnesses also reported four lights. A local police officer described the object to the reporters as hovering over the sea at the altitude of two or three kilometers. He said it consisted of ten bright yellow lights moving around in a circular motion. The object was long and its size was impressive. The largest of the objects would slowly dim and then radiate again. Three or four times other objects, much smaller, would approach it. At the distance of 500 meters, one smaller object exploded in a bright flare up. Some locals told the policeman that the military put a dirigible in the sky and fired S-300 missiles at it from a local anti-aircraft defense unit. However his acquaintances who were military experts assured him that such target shooting had never been and was not now conducted in the Maritime Province. They believed it was a real UFO, a very large and bright object. The newspaper also reported that there were a number of other UFO sightings in the area in August 2005.

UFOs and Boreholes

Alexandr Lukyanets, a Russian naval officer, was an ardent UFO researcher in the early 1990s. He was stationed in the Far East and published a number of interesting articles, one of which discussed his research of UFOs and boreholes.[86] He noted that in 1992 he discovered unusual boreholes in an area of radioactive environmental contamination near Chazhma Bay in the

Maritime Province. The boreholes were drilled in the ground and were obviously fresh, since he knew that no drilling had been done in the area since 1985.

In August of 1985, while a K-431 Soviet nuclear submarine was refueling at a naval facility near Vladivostok, a reactor tank lid was improperly replaced, which quickly resulted in a thermal explosion. The blast ruptured the vessel's hull and caused a fire. Ten people were killed and 49 others were treated for radiation-related illness, including many of the firefighters who put out the blaze. The explosion released a massive amount of radioactivity and contaminated large areas of land and water. The disaster was kept secret for many years and the extent of environmental and health effects may never be fully known. The damaged K-431 submarine was towed to Pavlovsk Bay and berthed there.

Lukyanets was struck by seemingly meaningless choice of location for these boreholes, as well as the absence of soil or debris anywhere that could be associated with the drilling. He tried to measure a hole with a three-meter long rod, but could not reach the bottom. He threw pebbles down and could not hear them reach the bottom. One of these boreholes was drilled in a dirt road, 25 to 30 centimeters in diameter, or a little less than one foot. It was right in the unpaved dirt and not in the roadside. That is, whoever did the drilling did not use common sense. A second borehole was located in the field some distance from the road and was identical to the first one. There were no traces from an oilrig, no automobile tracks, and no signs of anything like supports. No soil was present anywhere next to the boreholes, although no matter how one drilled a hole, there would have to have been some soil associated with the drilling.

Nine months later, in June 1993, Lukyanets returned to the location. The first borehole was still visible. The second one presented an enigma of sorts. It was covered by a small mound that consisted of soil that was not present anywhere else in the area. There were no traces of any vehicle that could have delivered the soil to the borehole. There was not that much soil either, perhaps only four sacks full. Right next to the tiny mound, one could see small trees all undamaged in any way. Any vehicle that would have delivered the soil would also have damaged these trees. Lukyanets took photographs of the area, but all of the photos looked over-exposed after being developed and were useless. He searched the area to find anything that might help him explain the strange boreholes. Instead, he found yet another borehole which

turned out to be the strangest of them all.

This borehole was drilled straight through a boulder. It had a diameter of 20 centimeters, or 8 inches. His tape measure descended about half a meter below the base of the boulder. Who would want to mount an oilrig there, or drill through boulders?

Lukyanets later learned that during the early spring of 1992, some of the local people had observed a UFO hovering in the area. A few saw the UFO actually ‘drilling’ in that very same area. He decided to find the witnesses, who turned out to be workers from the shipbuilding plant. They had seen the UFO in the early evening, they said.

Was this an example of UFOs and USOs visiting another contaminated and ecologically damaged Soviet territory? Some researchers believe so, but to us it is yet another mystery of the region.

Although UFOs have left marks on the ground after landing in many other parts of the world and indeed within Russia, the borehole mystery seems peculiar to Russia. UFOs have reportedly been observed doing many things, including taking water from lakes and taking electricity from power lines. As far as we can ascertain, however, it is only in Russia and the former USSR that they have been reported drilling apparently useless boreholes for purposes which, like the UFOs and USOs themselves, remain unidentified.

Chapter 12 — UFOs and USOs in Central Asia, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan

More than two decades after the dissolution of the USSR, we still know little to nothing about the paranormal phenomena of the five former Soviet republics of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan). But through our efforts we did manage to collect fascinating accounts of UFO and USO cases.

Central Asian nations and surrounding areas.

One interesting UFO sighting took place in early July 1975, in Uzbekistan. Four young people on vacation at the shores of the Charvak Reservoir woke up in terror at 3:00 a.m. for no apparent reason. Soon after they awoke, they saw a glowing sphere rise from under the water about 800 meters from the shore. One eyewitness recalled that the sphere's light was hundreds of times brighter than the light of a lamp. As it rose up, concentric circles of varying thickness and brightness formed around it. In perfect silence, the luminescent sphere slowly rose over the lake. The witnesses observed it for over seven minutes. All the while, they experienced a terrible feeling of fear.

The Aral Sea

The Aral Sea, located in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, is historically a saline lake. It is in the center of a large, flat desert basin. Millions of years ago, the area was covered by a massive inland sea. When the waters receded, they left a broad plain of highly saline soil. One of the remnants of the ancient sea was the Aral Sea. It was fed by two rivers, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya. However, starting in the early 1950s, the Soviet Union began irrigating vast areas along both rivers for cotton production. An enormous amount of water

was diverted for this purpose, causing the rivers sometimes to run dry by the time they reached the Aral Sea. The result was the slow and steady destruction of what was once the fourth largest inland body of water in the world. In the process, it also became highly polluted, largely as the result of industrial projects, weapons testing, and fertilizer runoff from agriculture.

In 1991, scientists with the Kazakh Scientific Research Hydrometeorological Institute performed an aerial photography expedition over the Syr Darya floodlands to determine the sources of the loss of the river's waters before it flowed into the Aral Sea. While doing so, they photographed strange images of unknown origin at the bottom of the sea. According to journalist Olga Khrabrikh, the photographs of the coastline and the bottom of the Aral Sea showed furrow-like images of gigantic strange shapes.[87] Some resembled lines while others looked like outlines of rockets or trails of huge underwater vehicles. The width of the shapes was anywhere from two to fifty meters, while the length was several kilometers. Some of these images were intricate geometrical structures.

Soviet hydrologist Boris Smerdov, who had requested the area be photographed in the first place, was convinced that the shapes were created by extraterrestrial civilizations utilising advanced technologies. Ever since their discovery, he has tried to obtain funds for further research, but without success. Meanwhile, in some areas the sea has receded and some of the shapes have disappeared due to storms, vegetation, and other environmental factors. Some of the furrows still under water, however, have retained their distinctive shapes. Smerdov mentioned that similar lines resembling furrows are found at the bottom of the Caspian Sea, only a few hundred kilometers to the west of the Aral Sea. He added that local villagers told stories about sailors in bygone times who intentionally avoided the area where the strange shapes are located.

A report we received from the region described events from June of 1958. B. Muratov and his father (from the town of Chimbay, Karakalpak) were coming home after fishing in the Aral Sea. It was around 9 pm and the sky was clear. The sun hid beyond the horizon. Suddenly they noticed a huge disc-shaped object approaching them at low altitude from the northeast, moving directly towards them. Muratov pointed to the object and told his father who said it was "probably an airplane." The object then flew directly over them at a very low altitude, and they realized it was not an airplane but clearly disc-shaped. They estimated its diameter to be around 25 meters or so,

and to be traveling at roughly 250-300 kilometers per hour. Its hull was shiny, the west side of which shone with a red color. Located vertically on the disc was some kind of pipe. The object gave off a steady “voice-like” noise, something like a “zing, zing, zing” sound. Nothing else was heard from it. Two years later it was reported that other local fishermen observed a similar strange object in the very same location.

The Dead Lake

Among yet more strange phenomena, Kazakhstan has a tiny body of water known as the Dead Lake. Located in the Taldikurgan region, it is ice-cold even during the summer heat. Neither fish nor algae live in it. No research has been undertaken there, simply because it is impossible to remain underwater in the lake for over three minutes, even for divers with scuba equipment. Local people have drowned in the lake and never floated to the surface. The Dead Lake is not the kind of place you would want to visit.

Mysterious Island

The Barsa-Kelmes Island is located in the northwestern part of the Aral Sea. Its name, translated from the Kazakh language, means “Go there and you will not return.” There are many legends about this island with strange phenomena, including the claim that it interferes with the flow of time. Stories are told of people who sought refuge there for a few years who learned, upon returning to their families, that they had been missing for dozens of years. Other legends tell of groups of people that disappeared there altogether. The Kazakhs blame a strange creature: a giant flying extinct lizard, and some locals even talk about its skeleton and show a tooth taken from it. Modern expeditions also allegedly suffered time-losses at the island. Some members claimed to have spent thirty minutes in a white fog, while upon return discover they had been missing for a whole day.

Let us not forget that in February of 1955, an underwater nuclear explosion was secretly conducted near the town of Aralsk. This was an idiotic thing to do, one of many environmental crimes committed under Soviet rule. The explosion destroyed a fragile ground layer, and water from Aral Sea gradually flowed into the surrounding thick sandy areas. That is how the tragedy began to unfold. We do not know how extensively Soviet nuclear tests harmed the natural environment. Perhaps an explosion related to the criminally negligent arms race in post-Stalin’s USSR caused the strange

phenomenon that is reported in these different areas. It is but one of many theories, but who knows?

The Altai Anomalies

The Altai Territory is in southwestern Siberia and includes the Gorno-Altai Republic. It borders on Kazakhstan, the Novosibirsk, and Kemerovo Regions as well as the Republic of Altai. At times it can attract many tourists.

The Altai Territory is also not far from the Baikonur Cosmodrome and the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing range. Both of those sites release a great deal of electromagnetic radiation, and some proponents of the extraterrestrial hypothesis believe that UFOs need such energy to recharge their power supplies. Others believe that UFOs over the Altai Territory are Russian-made craft being tested over the Cosmodrome. Still others point to nearby Tibet for possible explanations. Some Russian researchers believe that the Himalayan, Pamir, and Tien-Shan mountains are huge reservoirs of cosmic energy, or even that the areas contain underground cities where advanced civilizations find their refuge.

According to *Sobesednik* magazine, there were 118 recorded UFO sightings over the Altai Territory from 1930 to 2000.[88] *Vostochny Express* newspaper reported a number of interesting sightings during 1991. A report from the Shekhonainsky region described a UFO that looked like a "second moon." This object emitted beams of light that explored the settlement below and was soon joined by a similar object that also gave off beams of light. In Ust'Kamenogorsk, at the same time that Shekhonainsky experienced its UFO activity, three UFOs were reported which also gave off beams of light. These UFOs, like so many others, are reported to have maneuvered without making a single sound.

In the flood-lands of the Gromotukha River, one resident actually reported coming face-to-face with an anthropoid (apelike) creature—one that was three meters tall and wearing a silver spacesuit. The people of Bolshe-Narimskoye and nearby villages reported numerous UFOs that allegedly explored fields and industrial plants. Passing cars below the hovering UFOs experienced engine failure. In the Zaysansky area, Soviet border guards were alerted after a UFO spent several hours over the locale.

In summary, UFOs were heavily reported over Altai in 1991. For reasons unknown, the area became an attraction for unidentified flying observers. One theory is that the UFOs took an interest in the ever-increasing pollution

levels. Another theory involves the powerful explosion of September 1990 that took place at the Ul'binsky Metallurgical Plant. This is where fuel for nuclear power stations was produced. As a result of the explosion, a huge amount of poisonous beryllium was released into the atmosphere. Is it that the UFOs, just as at Chernobyl in 1986, arrived to check on the human-generated destruction of the environment? Another theory for the 1991 UFO flap could be due to the fact that the Soviet Union was disintegrating rapidly, a historical process equal to the fall of the Roman Empire. Why would the UFO occupants want to miss watching it?

Another rather disturbing report came from the Altai Mountains later in the decade.[89] The area had been used by the Soviets for secret projects, and has many secret facilities still located there. On the evening of June 6, 1997, the Gomzyakov family were on a boat traveling through a reservoir, when they saw a luminous flying object moving at the speed of approximately 500 kilometers per hour. The object turned around over the Ob River and flew towards Novosibirsk. One hour later, the group arrived at their destination. As they disembarked, they all saw another UFO over the Krutikha village. The object was engulfed in a brownish gas and it emitted powerful floodlights towards the ground. The witnesses then noticed another object to the right which also had a powerful light attached to it. The size of this light seemed to be about eight times larger than the object itself, and its shape was that of a sickle or crescent. Still another UFO, identical to one seen earlier, flew in front. It too emitted a brownish gas but in a different, systematic, manner. For fifteen minutes, the family watched this spectacle, after which the objects flew off towards Novosibirsk. The odor they left behind reminded the witnesses of the smell that comes from furnaces at a steel works.

Mongolia

Our information on Mongolia comes from a number of Russian sources, some of whom served in the Soviet Armed Forces. V. Gorsky was a Soviet major in 1983 while stationed in Mongolia. On March 23 of that year, he was in the Snake Valley, which is located in the Mongolian Altai Mountains. On that day, Gorsky and two of his commanding officers observed a silver disk at an altitude of approximately 400 meters. It was mostly rosy-red and silver in color, but in fact its colors were constantly changing. With the black starry sky as the background, the witnesses clearly saw a blue halo around the object. A narrow ray of light, resembling a search light, descended to the

ground. The impression was that the object was illuminating the area, as if looking for something. Other military personnel were summoned, and over 30 people observed the phenomenon. The object remained at the distance of two to three kilometers and seemed to be studying the area for another four minutes. Then the ray of light disappeared, as did the halo. The disc hovered there for a moment. Then, as if by magic, it instantly vanished.

Gorsky discussed another sighting at a lake where Russian soldiers would often go to fish, around 140 kilometers from the Snake Valley. One night, a powerful ray of light from a nearby mountain pass illuminated the soldiers while they fished. It moved in an erratic fashion, including vertically and zigzag. When the dawn came, the ray slowly moved away behind the mountain. Gorsky later said that when he looked at the UFO, he felt fear that Earthlings were helpless before such objects.[90]

Although Central Asia and Mongolia are not on the proverbial UFO map, it is clear to see even from the bits of information we have provided here that UFOs, whatever they may be, do not recognize international borders. They have also appeared in significant numbers in some of the most remote regions of our planet.

Chapter 13 — USO and UFO Sightings in the Black Sea

The Black Sea lies between southeastern Europe and Asia Minor. Excluding its northern arm, the Sea of Azov, it occupies about 168,500 square miles. This sea is connected with the Mediterranean Sea through the Bosporus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles. This major inland sea is bordered by six countries: Romania and Bulgaria to the west; Ukraine, Russia, and Georgia to the north and east, and Turkey to the south.

Map of the Black Sea (from Wikipedia)

World War II and the 1950s

Novorossiysk is a city in southern Russia and the main Russian port on the Black Sea. In December 1941, Soviet anti-aircraft gunners defending the city against Nazi forces opened fire on an object that was itself invisible, but which left a trail in the sky described as similar to a smoke screen. The object could not be seen through stereoscopic telescopes or naval binoculars, but the impression was that it was at an extremely high altitude, the best estimate being some 50 kilometers—or 30 miles, or over 160,000 feet. This is double the ceiling of the ultra high-flying U-2 spy plane of the 1950s and 1960s. Officials in Soviet Navy headquarters demanded that the gunners open fire on the object. Some artillery battery commanders agreed, as they believed this unknown object to be close enough to be in range of their guns. However,

other observers stated that the barrage was meaningless and needed to be stopped. In the meantime, the slow-moving UFO dropped two smaller objects, which were also accompanied by a smoke screen.

Another Black Sea UFO/USO story comes from the 1950s. A number of years ago, Ukrainian researcher and author V.V. Krapiva met with Professor Korsakov of Odessa University. The professor told him of a conversation he had with a friend of his, a Soviet Navy officer who had served at the Sevastopol naval base in Crimea. Back in the 1950s, this officer personally observed a UFO. The object arose from under the sea from behind a battle cruiser. The officer was under the impression that the object surfaced from the depths of the Black Sea. Professor Korsakov had allegedly kept a photograph of the object.

Wheels under the Sea

Tekhnika Molodezhi (Technology for the Youth) is a famous and immensely popular Soviet and Russian periodical magazine founded in the 1930s and is still being published today. During the Soviet period, despite the prevailing attitude of Soviet Communism, which typically demeaned, degraded, and debunked subjects relating to anomalous phenomena and UFOs, this magazine often published positive articles about such matters. In 1991, an article appeared by N. Yerokhina, a Siberian engineer, who was very much interested in the history of USOs. She quoted from a Soviet book published in 1956 that described several interesting episodes regarding giant underwater "wheels" rotating at great speeds. These wheels had radiant lines that crossed the ocean from horizon to horizon, and fluorescent spots arising from the depths of the sea.[91]

1960s-1970s

Crimea is located on the northern coast of the Black Sea, for many years part of the Russian Empire, then in 1954 during the Soviet era transferred to Ukraine, and more recently in 2014 back to Russia. Kastropol, a resort town on the southern coast of Crimea, is a secluded place. In September 1964, approximately 150 people on holiday sailed out from there into the Black Sea and observed a shiny disc that appeared over the water. It was somewhat smaller than the apparent size of the Moon. The disc suddenly stopped in mid-air, and was under observation by most of the passengers for three to four minutes.[92]

In August 1965, Soviet astronomer S. Tsekhanovich, a lecturer from the Moscow Observatory, was on vacation at a top Soviet resort on the Black Sea in the Noviy Afon area of northwest Caucasus. The air was clear, cloudless, and warm, and she was swimming in the sea. Twenty minutes after sunset, she headed to the shore, which was just 100 meters away. Suddenly, high in the sky to the west, she noticed a black spot and soon made out that it had an elongated body. At first, she thought it was an airplane, but saw no wings and heard no engine noise. The object flew over the sea, west to east. At around 400 meters distant from her, it descended to about 100 meters over the sea. Then it turned at a 90 degree angle, as if on an axis. As it turned, a band of light flashed in its center, and she noticed that the object was disc-shaped. As it turned, the light intensified, and in a few seconds its shape changed into a circle. In its center was some sort of porthole, about half the size of the object itself, glowing with yellow light. The object then flew north toward the shore, gaining speed and altitude as it did so until it became a dot in the distance and disappeared. The whole observation lasted no more than about a minute.[93]

Sochi, which hosted the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, is a resort city located north of Russia's border with Georgia along the Black Sea near the Caucasus Mountains. Greater Sochi stretches 145 kilometers (90 miles) along the sea and is considered one of the longest cities in Europe. The Lazarevskaya district is at Sochi's northern outskirts. In August 1970, eight people there observed around a dozen identical-looking objects that came from the direction of Black Sea. Each one was rectangular and quite large—roughly the apparent size of the Sun. They flew in a column-type formation, one behind the other, and were equally spaced apart. The changes in their movement was described as synchronized, if not perfectly precise.[94]

Another Black Sea sighting took place in May 1979. In this instance, an object arose from the water very close to a number of ships. It was described as gigantic, disc-shaped, and shiny. The water from the seas rose behind it like a huge dome and then plunged back down. The object rapidly disappeared into the air.[95]

Just three months after this, at 2 a.m. on August 12, 1979, yet another Black Sea USO case occurred.[96] Engineer Y. Podvyazniy and two companions were at the Black Sea shore, west of the Sochi district of Khosta. There, from the direction of the sea, they saw a brightly illuminated object which approached in an erratic fashion. Shortly thereafter, the object appeared to 'lunge' or 'jump,'and ended up just one and a half kilometers from the

eyewitnesses. They now understood that it was neither a ship nor boat, but something most unusual instead. Two of the witnesses ran to get a camera and a telescope. They took nine photographs of this object, and estimated its size at 50 to 100 meters in diameter and noticed four glowing lights that looked like portholes. The object was fairly low over the water, perhaps 5 to 20 meters above it, when it then slowly moved away from the witnesses to an estimated 15 kilometers distance. A patrol vessel stationed nearby used its searchlight to illuminate the object, which appeared to be spherical in shape. The object lit up and then dimmed. When it did so, the searchlight and the lights of the patrol ship also started to dim.

1980s-1990s

Balaklava was no ordinary Soviet town on the Crimean peninsula. It contained an underground, formerly classified submarine base that was fully operational until 1993. The base was virtually indestructible and was designed to survive a direct atomic impact. During that Soviet period, Balaklava was one of the most secret residential areas in the nation simply because of this top secret submarine base. At the end of 1982, during naval exercises, an unidentified target was detected over the area at a somewhat low altitude, comparable to what one would expect from a helicopter. Eyewitnesses recalled that it had a very sharp nose, and sparks of some sort were coming from its tail section. The object did not respond to repeated attempts at communication. Jet interceptors were scrambled, but the object descended into the water as they approached. Soviet Naval vessels could not detect it underwater.

Yet another Black Sea USO sighting was reported to have taken place in July 1989. A TU-154 aircraft (flight number 85500) was flying to the city of Simferopol. At the altitude of 10 kilometers over the sea and at a distance of 100 kilometers north-north-west from the town of Adler, the crew observed a cigar-shaped body with the color of light, silvery steel. They contacted their flight controller to inquire about any dirigibles flying at their altitude. The flight controller assured them there were none near them. A square-shaped object separated from the UFO, and then changed its shape to triangular, and then back to square. The two objects ascended and descended, and changed positions. Radar could not detect their presence. Five different aircraft had observed the objects that day and all information was collected by flight controllers, then sent to the regional center (the All-Caucasus Directorate of

civil aviation). From there it went to the Aeroflot bosses in Moscow as well as a number of scientists. The KGB was informed of the event and filed the report—later released among the documents of the so-called Blue File obtained by Soviet Cosmonaut Pavel Popovich from General Sham of the KGB.

An undated incident was described in a letter which appeared in *NLO Magazine* Issue 12, 1997. The author, Nikolai Sadkov from the Russian city of Pskov, described an interesting episode regarding his service in the Black Sea Fleet. He had served aboard a Navy boat for the recovery of unexploded Soviet torpedoes during tests at sea. These torpedoes could stay afloat for up to 48 hours before sinking. On one occasion, the crew had to recover a secret Dolphin-type torpedo. A Special Department representative (e.g. Soviet naval intelligence) was with them as the crew hunted for the torpedo. They located the torpedo's position about two hours later; an hour after this, they began to approach the torpedo with a view to recovering it as ordered. The torpedo was hardly visible as the CO guided his vessel toward it.

Then, from under the clouds, a bell-shaped craft hovered over the torpedo. The diameter of the UFO was 15 or 20 meters. It descended very slowly to the altitude of five meters over the torpedo. A voice, emanating from somewhere in the sky, uttered in clear Russian that nothing bad would be done to them and that everyone needed to remain where they were. A round platform extended from the bottom part of the craft and attracted the torpedo to it like a magnet. The boat's sonar technician ran out with a camera in his hands eager to take pictures. A thin ray of bright red light came from the craft and touched the sonar technician's head. He simply fell down on the spot. The UFO took the torpedo and flew away at a great speed. Two hours later, it re-appeared and hovered over the deck of the recovery boat. The torpedo was slowly lowered from the bottom part of the craft and placed on the deck of the Soviet boat. The craft then disappeared. When the sailors returned to the base, they signed a statement for the Special Department that they would not reveal the incident to anyone. Assuming that Sadkov did not invent the whole story, what was this object: a UFO, a USO, or an American spy craft? We shall probably never know.

Another Black Sea UFO/USO story dates from August, 11, 1987, when several people reported seeing a triangular object with three lights over Sevastopol. Around the perimeter of the triangle was a yellowish illumination, and a bright white color was seen inside. The lights shined

evenly and clearly. The triangular craft hovered and moved for three hours over the city with a trajectory that changed unpredictably. The object would disappear and then reappear, smaller objects looking like capsules separated from it, and which disappeared at great speed. The object itself moved at incredible speeds and then would come to a dead stop, apparently frightening the people who watched it. Then it took off at a very fast speed away from the shore.

Another curious incident in the Black Sea took place in the early 1990s.[97] Academician E. Shnyuyukov recalled an expedition he participated in aboard the scientific research vessel *Mikhail Lomonosov*. The crew's sonic depth finder located an enormous and unusually dense "cloud" at the depth of 1400-1800 meters. It was elliptical in shape, and an astonishing two kilometers by three kilometers in size and up to 270 meters in thickness. Analyses of water taken in the immediate area did not reveal any anomalies. Thus, while the depth finder indicated the presence of a strange object, the analyses did not confirm that information.

We have demonstrated that the Soviet government and the nation's armed forces were keenly interested in USOs. We have also presented examples of the Soviet research programs, particularly the SETKA project. Like a number of other Soviet academic institutes and science centers, the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control (the Goskomgidromet) and its main organization, the Institute of Applied Geophysics, participated in the SETKA program. It had its own expert group to research UFOs and USOs. This was a fairly easy undertaking, considering that this Goskomgidromet operated a gigantic net of hydro-meteorological stations all over the nation, and of course in the Black Sea. Its scientists were easily able to differentiate anomalous objects from bright stars or other natural phenomena. Like all organizations in the SETKA program, it had precise instructions (*Metodicheskiye Ukazaniya*) regarding the collection of anomalous phenomena observations and data, tailored to the non-military entities.

The SETKA program's instructions also affected Soviet scientific research vessels. Mikhail Gershtein, who has access to the manuscript of the late Russian UFO researcher Alexandr Kuzovkin, wrote about one case from 1980. The crew, after witnessing UFOs, not only sent their report to the Goskomgidromet as instructed, but also sent details to the Black Sea's Odessa harbor (where their ship *Viktor Bugayev* was registered), as well as to

the Soviet newspapers *Pravda*, *Izvestiya* and *Vechernyaya Odessa*.

There are 21st century reports of Black Sea USOs, as well. The Ukrainian newspaper FAKTY published a letter about an incident from the fall of 2006.[98] A seaman named Nikolay Sadovnichiy of Sevastopol had served aboard *Balta*, a small vessel of Ukraine's Navy. This ship was part of a joint Ukrainian-Russian deep underwater archaeological expedition in a large area within the territorial waters of Ukraine on the southern coast of Crimea, close to the famous summit, Ayu Dag.[99] The mission of the expedition was to carry out a detailed study of the region as well as to detect the sunken ambulance ship, *Armenia*. That vessel had been sunk by Nazi aircraft in 1941 with the loss of seven thousand lives, a horrible tragedy.

Ayu Dag, Crimean Peninsula

According to Sadovnichiy, scientists aboard the *Balta* detected a USO

during this expedition using deep-water scanning equipment designed to detect objects in the depths of the sea. One of the crew on board was Sergey Voronov, at the time Director of Ukraine's Department of Underwater Heritage. It was during Voronov's watch that one Russian scientist said that they had possibly sighted a Ukrainian submarine. Voronov looked at the screen and saw an object and its inversion trail. This constituted proof that something was moving; visually the trail resembled those left in the sky by aircraft. Voronov did not reveal to his Russian colleague that the Ukrainian Navy's only submarine (*Zaporozhye*), had long ago stopped its sea voyages. Instead he remarked that the unusual outlines of the object resembled a UFO. Voronov himself was not a believer in UFOs and assumed the object was a Russian submarine.

After he returned to Sevastopol, he discussed the strange submarine to his acquaintances among officers of Russia's Black Sea Fleet (stationed in the city per treaty). The Russians told him that their submarines had not gone out to sea for several months. Voronov decided to check if the strange object was some kind of an illusion. They replayed the recorded tape of the scanning of the sea bottom and confirmed that the equipment did register some kind of object. The scientists studied the location for any remarkable properties that might account for the recording, but apart from three underwater extinct volcanoes they drew a complete blank.

The newspaper did its own investigation of the incident, and contacted the Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The experts at the Institute, including Sergey Voronov, confirmed that they indeed registered a mysterious object off Crimea's shores. They also claimed to possess a photo of the object.

Unfortunately the areas located on the shores of the Black Sea are still a place of conflict and confrontation. It is the hope of these two authors that peace can be brought to these regions sooner rather than later.

Chapter 14 — Lands of Strange Phenomena: Mysteries of North Russia, Kola, and Karelia

Ancient Mysteries of the Kola Peninsula

It should come as no surprise that UFO sightings have occurred in Russian lands since antiquity. The Kola Peninsula is one such area of longstanding mystery. It occupies the rim of northwestern Russia, and a major part of it lies above the Arctic Circle. The peninsula is situated between the two seas: the White Sea in the south and the Barents Sea in the north. Here, a number of anthropological, climate-related, natural, and mystical enigmas co-exist side by side. Saami hunters—the descendants of ancient nomadic tribes and reindeer-breeders—have often reported UFOs over the area.

There are ancient stone monuments in the Russian North as old as Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. The spiral labyrinths of the White Sea are no less enigmatic. They can be found on the Solovetski Islands and throughout the Tersk Shores of the southern portion of the Kola Peninsula. [100] One of the labyrinths lies near the ancient Umba, near the Lesnoi settlement. The locals have called it Babylon for many centuries, although nobody knows why. Perhaps there is a connection to the ancient Sumerian civilization? No one really knows the reason, just as they are not certain of the cause of the many USO sightings in the area. A number of Russian archaeologists who have studied the local legends consider the labyrinths to be gateways to an underground kingdom. Similar double spiral labyrinths have been found throughout the ancient world in Egypt, China, and Scandinavia. They symbolise the Sun in the ancient cultures. What is more amazing, the same double spiral labyrinths were depicted on ancient Minoan coins, minted on the island of Crete, one of the most mysterious civilizations of the Neolithic age.

The Russian archaeologist, researcher, and writer Andrei Nikitin provided information regarding a very peculiar incident. As a field archaeologist, he had studied the labyrinths of various sizes throughout the Russian North. On one occasion, Nikitin showed his drawings of the labyrinths to a physicist friend. The scientist asked him in amazement: why would an archaeologist draw direct transmission aerial antenna of a broad frequency range? The physicist could not believe that he was looking at an ancient stone structure built on the shores of the Northern seas thousands of years ago.

Russia is just like that labyrinth: full of secrets, enigmas, and mysteries. UFOs have hovered over it and USOs have visited its waters since the dawn of time.

The mysterious and sacred Seidozero Lake is located in the center of the

Lovozero tundra in the Kola Peninsula, north of the Arctic Circle. It is connected with the Lovozero by a short but ferocious river, the Seidyavryoka. It is a very hard task to get to the lake, either by water or by land, as it is surrounded by thick and almost impenetrable taiga. The lake's beauty is breathtaking, and it is surrounded by tabletop-like summits of the low mountains.

The area around the lake is filled with many ancient legends and anomalies. Native Saami tribes have been living here for thousands of years, and it is where they worshiped their gods. According to their legends, a great tent made of skins or bark, known by the locals as a *choom*, was placed there and offerings from all Saami nomad camps were brought there. These offerings were quite valuable, and even included gold nuggets. During the invasion led by a Norwegian King named Hakon, the old choom was destroyed and burned down. The shamans, it was said, were able to hide the treasures collected through the ages in the deep waters of the sacred lake. There are rumors even today regarding strange rituals performed by shamans near the lake.

A sacred rock, known as the Kuiva Seid, sits on the shores of the Seidozero. *Seid* are the sacred rocks of the Saami, believed to contain spirits and souls of deceased shamans, known as *noaidi*. They were worshipped, used for fortune-telling purposes, and were the scene of sacrifices. The rocks themselves were not believed to possess magical powers, but rather the spirits that lived inside them. Therefore, if a seid was not worshipped sufficiently, the spirit inside would leave it and the rock became an empty vessel. Some Russian researchers claim there are thirty seids near the lake, several of which are located on islands in the lake. When the Saami sail past the sacred Kuiva Seid, they refrain from swearing or making loud noises for fear that the Old Man (as the Kuiva Seid is called) might overhear them. They don't pollute their sacred lake, lest the Old Man take the fish away.

Other ancient beliefs and myths envelop the area. Near the lake is a tundra called *Nepeslogchorr*. Saami mythology has it that three sorceresses—a mother and her daughters—were turned to stone there.

The narrow strip of land between the Seidozero Lake and nearby Lovozero Lake is called Motka. Over it is a constant clearing of blue sky. Hurricane-like winds blow from the Seidozero hollow. The surrounding mountains do not protect Seidozero Lake from winds. Rain and clouds are frequent guests there. Huge waves sometimes make the sailing on the lake virtually

impossible.

The climb to the top of the nearby Ninchurg Mountain is both difficult and fascinating. This truly is an enigmatic place. The higher one climbs, the more beautiful the mysterious lake lying below becomes. Strange signs are found on the vertical sides of the steps, carved in the rock. Some are very complex, incomprehensible, and eerie in appearance. There are geometrically correct gigantic plates, huge rocks bored through by some unknown and sizable drill of some sort, underground tunnels, and strange wells. There are seven pillars, each right next to the other, like a wall. Who built all this? Was it built by Stalin's slaves, looking for uranium? This was one explanation proffered by Soviet scientists who arrived in the area to find an explanation for its many puzzles and to help the local authorities discover the reason behind the disappearance of tourists and others. But they could not explain the many mysteries of the lake and the surrounding region.

Legends state that the lake has a double bottom. Indeed, Soviet secret police-sponsored expeditions in the 1920s apparently visited an underground cave beneath the lake. An expedition in 1998 led by Mikhail Dyomin discovered a ritual well, mysterious signs, strange writings, and the ruins of an ancient observatory (a 15 meter-long groove pointing at the sky). In 2001, a new expedition led by Dyomin employed radar to discover a hollow and a huge cave on the lake's shore. The next year they found yet more surprises, including panels made from rock allegedly cut by metallic tools. They were estimated to be 8,000 years old.

Nazi agents also seem to have visited the lake, with claims that a number of tourists found food supplies and winter clothing with Nazi insignias in a cave by the lake.[101] Hitler was rumoured to have an interest in conquering the Kola Peninsula. It is possible the Nazi-era Ancestral Heritage Research and Teaching Society (Ahnenerbe Forschungs und Lehrgemeinschaft) was active in the area. This organization had been founded in 1935 with Hitler's blessing and then merged into the SS two years later. The organization's mission was to provide anthropological and archaeological evidence to determine the origins of the Aryan race. Some Nazi racial theorists believed such origins were connected to the lost city of Atlantis. For them, Atlantis was the one and the same with the mythical land of Thule, lying between Greenland and Iceland and—according to some—in the Kola Peninsula. From the spring of 1940 until the autumn of 1944, Nazi Germany had its hands on the North, with the exception of the Kola Peninsula. The Nazis knew the strategic

importance of the ice-free port of Murmansk and the vast natural wealth of the region. Perhaps they also knew about its paranormal phenomena? When the Nazis prepared for their attack on the Soviet Union, they planned to take the Kola Peninsula as well, if only because of the large nickel mines there. However, the Soviets also knew the importance of their northern peninsula, and defended it at all costs.

The Lake of the Mountain Spirits is a mysterious, pristine, remote and hard-to-reach place. We hope it remains all of the above, until the time is right to unlock its secrets. Until such a time, it is best that the lake remain a remote destination, undisturbed by noisy and prying tourists.

Karelia

An interesting UFO report from 1983 comes from the northern coast of the Kola Peninsula, in the Kola Bay. This is a 57 kilometer-long fjord of the Barents Sea that cuts into the northern part of the peninsula. It is up to seven kilometers wide and has a depth of 200 to 300 meters. About 200 battle, transport, and fishing boats have sunk to the bottom of the Kola Bay. Indeed, they interfere with navigation and present a potential ecological hazard. There is a civilian nuclear icebreaker facility in the area, and several nuclear installations operated by the Russian Northern Fleet. The contamination of the Kola Bay is a direct result of industrial and military activities.

In November of 1983, the captain and crew of the diving support vessel *Sprut* were in the Kola Bay. For an hour and a half, everyone onboard observed an ellipsoid object slowly moving over the surface of the sea at the altitude of 500-1000 meters. The object separated into three spherical objects which sharply increased their speed, and then flew toward the Norwegian border.[102]

Another researcher noted that during the 1980s, many unidentified underwater objects had been observed in the northern seas of the Soviet Union. Soviet ufologists had analysed such sightings obtained from various sources, and concluded that during the 1980-1981 period, residents of the Kola Peninsula had observed UFOs rising from the waters at least 36 times. This confirms Colonel Pravdivtsev's information mentioned earlier in the book.[103]

Just south of the Kola Peninsula is Karelia, an autonomous republic of northwest Russia, between the Gulf of Finland and the White Sea, and north of St. Petersburg. It was once under Swedish domination and was annexed by

Russia in 1721. Karelia is full of virgin woods, thousands of picturesque lakes, and hundreds of rivers. There has been a great deal of strange phenomena associated with this area of northern Europe, and many interesting reports of UFOs and USOs.

In 1932, a thick black cloud enveloped the village of Shuknavolok. After its disappearance, local peasants discovered a jelly-like substance on the ground. They collected it and later used it as a medicine. Many years later, an unusual interference was noted with the local television reception, an effect that occurred only in this village and nowhere else.

Karelia, too, has anomalous areas. A group of tourists from St. Petersburg, comprised of scientists, arrived in Karelia in the summer of 1993. They were in the Vuoksa Lakes area when a torrential rainstorm engulfed the area. Their vehicle was forced off the road by lightning and hit a tree. One of the party, an engineer named S. Elbman, suffered a concussion, and the tourists searched for help. They found a small hut nearby, which in retrospect seemed to appear from nowhere. An old woman let them in. She asked no questions, fed them, and cleaned the engineer's wound. The tourists were too tired and shaken to ask questions and the old woman said nothing. They fell asleep. In the morning, they woke up under the open sky. There was no hut, no woman, just some ruins of walls made of granite stones. Their search and inquiries revealed that there used to be a mill in the area. But there are other similar ruins in the area so there is nothing strange about old granite walls. The engineer's wound healed quickly, and even the scar disappeared. But the scientists continued to inquire, and eventually learned from police officers that back in 1982 a similar incident allegedly took place. Did the group spend time in a parallel world? Do the UFOs over Karelia and USOs in its waters come from parallel worlds?

Other Anomalous Zones in European Russia

Medveditskaya (or She-Bear Ridge) is located in the Volgograd region, formerly known as Stalingrad. It is comprised of stone mountains, reaching 200 to 380 meters in height and is geologically active. Ancient legends reveal that cursed or bewitched areas exist in the ridge and there have been rumors of strange backwoods dwellers. Curiously, anomalous phenomena such as triangular UFOs, spheres, and discs have been observed there. The area is a favorite for Vadim Chernobrov and his MAI-Kosmopoisk research organization, and they have explored it over 27 times.

Another anomalous zone, Shigri, is located some seven kilometers to the southwest of the Zikeyevo railroad station in the Kaluga area, southwest of Moscow. According to Chernobrov, many sightings of bright atmospheric phenomena and anomalous objects of various shapes were reported during the 1990s.

In between Moscow and the Volga River is the Republic of Mordovia. There is a lake in Mordovia, 50 kilometers from Kovilkino, known to the locals as the Lake of Fear. It is said that locals never swim in it, as too many strange things happen in its waters. In addition, there are claims that a greenish fog often engulfs the area at night, and people can hear horrible, distant, shrieks. People are said to have perished in the lake over the years. There is a case from 1995 in which two students who went swimming were sucked in by a strange wave. In the morning, divers arrived and searched the area right to the very bottom of the lake. They found only a sandy bottom and a strange greenish luminescence rising from it. This worked like a mirror, and the divers could even see their own reflections. The search, however, was fruitless, and the bodies were never recovered.

Chapter 15 — UFOs and USOs of Lake Ladoga and Other Karelia Lakes

Lake Ladoga

Located in northwestern Russia, directly east of St. Petersburg and to the southeast of Finland, Lake Ladoga is Europe’s largest freshwater lake. This large body of water has been a place of strange mirages and is well known for its anomalous phenomena. Often people hear a mysterious rumbling sound coming from its depths. There are many legends and folktales of mariners seeing glowing lights following their vessels.

In the northwestern part of the lake is a small island called Valaam, 12 kilometers long and 7 kilometers wide. Historically, the island was essentially a piece of granite devoid of plant life, but a monastery was founded there in the 10th century and transformed into a prosperous place

full of gardens and fertile soil. The island became an attraction for visitors, and has also been the scene of quite a few UFO sightings reported over the centuries.

Tatiana Tyumeneva, an experienced researcher of UFO sightings and paranormal phenomena in the area, mentioned that on one occasion during winter (no date supplied), a UFO rose from the waters, breaking the ice and quickly disappearing into the sky. She added that huge, perfectly round unfrozen patches of clear water sometimes appear in the lakes of the region. Tyumeneva personally observed a strange phenomenon in Lake Ladoga. She was on her way to the Valaam Archipelago one August night (no date or year given). She stood on the deck of the ship. It was raining under heavy clouds, the night was dark, and the Moon and stars were not visible. Tyumeneva then observed a gigantic luminous area a mere fifty meters from the ship. Streams of bluish light ascended upwards from the deep. They did not, however, reach the clouds. This lasted for three minutes, then disappeared as quickly as it appeared, with the surrounding area once again turning pitch black.[104]

In August 1989, members of the Fakt UFO Research Society in Leningrad received a letter from another eyewitness. This woman stayed on Valaam Island and observed a fiery sphere of a reddish-gold color. Its diameter approximately equaled two diameters of the Sun (which was visible). The object then descended into the waters of the lake. Konstantin Khazanovich, chairman of the society, dispatched Lev Gorokhov and an astronomer to investigate the case. They located a member of the military who observed a similar phenomenon, but would not reveal his name. The soldier actually asked his commanding officers about the sighting, and they told him that there are descending remote-controlled spherical targets in use in Lake Ladoga.

Mikhail Gershtein has also been fascinated by Lake Ladoga's secrets. He wanted to find out whether there is an underwater UFO base at the bottom of the lake. Gershtein was able to uncover some interesting information from the Russian academic magazine *Priroda*, which contained an article by researchers from the Institute of Earth Physics about old manuscripts describing strange rumbling sounds in the depths of the lake.[105] Back in 1914, a letter arrived in the Main Physical Observatory in St. Petersburg. It was signed by the clerk of the Valaam monastery by the name of Polikarp. The letter stated that during the previous five years, the monks had been noticing strange, underground rumbling noises coming from the southwestern

and western parts of Lake Ladoga: It resembled the noise made by canon fire shot from a distance, except that it was often heard as if coming from the depths of the waters. On rarer occasions it was heard underground in the western portion of the island, and the ground would shake slightly. Later, Russian and Soviet seismologists asked the monks to record the exact date and time when the sound appeared, and the monks did so up until 1927. There were 125 reports regarding this phenomenon. But, as the authors of the *Priroda* article established, no earthquakes were registered in the area. The authors traveled to Valaam and spoke with local residents. They discovered that the rumble was a well-known phenomenon there, and the locals called it *barrantida*. This rumble reminded them of noises made by a passing train.

The researchers discussed another another mysterious phenomenon associated with Lake Ladoga: the sudden boiling of the water. None other than Alexander Dumas, the famous 19th century French novelist who visited the lake, reported the "boiling lake, as if in a pot." One local captain informed the *Priroda* researchers that when his ship was on its way to Valaam, it suddenly encountered stormy waters, although there seemed to be no weather justification for it. As the rumbling seems to originate in the area where Lake Ladoga is the deepest, the researchers suggested that there could well be a natural geological explanation for this phenomena, the answers to which lie at the bottom of the lake.

Gershtein asked, if this were so, why had nothing registered on earthquake measuring devices. He called for further research of the lake.

An important sighting took place at Lake Ladoga on February 19, 1997. Directly above the exact origin of the mysterious underwater phenomena, where a luminescence had so often been observed, bright spots of light now became visible above the lake. These bright objects hovered in a cluster at an altitude of roughly 3.5 kilometers, or 11,000 feet, and were observed for a total of 15 minutes and 39 seconds. However, nothing registered on radar. An air traffic controller called the editorial offices of *Anomaliya* newspaper to report the sighting. One witness reported that the military had filmed the objects. Yuri Mefodyevich Raitarovsky, a noted Russian ufologist and chairman of the Ufological Commission of the Planetology Department of the Russian Geographical Society, was able to find the film and turn it over to the newspaper. He calculated the size and flight characteristics of the objects, and learned that the local air defense units did not conduct any training exercises at the time. Other researchers, including Mikhail Gershtein and

Tatiana Sirchenko, have studied this case, and it was the subject of discussion at Leningrad Region's Emergency Commission.[106]

The Russian newspaper *Argumenti y fakty* published a gripping account of the Valaam mysteries in its issue of September 11, 2002. Some other phenomena uncovered by these other researchers include strange spherical clouds that have often been seen moving over the lake. Fiery spheres have also been observed bursting out from under the lake's waters. What are these phenomena? Can they really be from underwater earthquakes?

Lake Onega

There are many other small islands in the area just as strange as Valaam. Among reports of UFO sightings sent from the former USSR to Philip Mantle, there is one that involves nearby Lake Onega, northeast of St. Petersburg between Lake Ladoga and the White Sea.

On February 19, 1982 at 4:54 p.m., a strange radiance was observed in the sky over the frozen lake. The glow was pale-blue and its shape was that of a cloud. Inside this luminescent cloud, moving at a great speed toward the city was a moving bright spot which appeared to be elliptical in shape. After a few minutes, the bright spot disappeared behind the forest, the luminescent cloud remained in the sky for some time. Then it too disappeared from sight. At around 5:00 p.m., a little to the right from the place where the first bright spot appeared, two more luminescent spots appeared, moving together in the same direction. One of them resembled the first object, a radiant elliptical shaped light surrounded by a spherical pale-blue haze, although it was somewhat smaller. The other object was a luminous sphere and moving in a spiral-like motion. As it moved, it left a hazy trail which quickly disappeared. The objects were moving at an altitude one would expect of ordinary aircraft. Then, at 5:15 pm, a luminescent arrow-shaped object flew directly over the observers and the city at great speed, leaving a luminescent trail behind it. None of these objects made any sound at all, as would have been expected if they were some kind of aircraft.[107]

Mikhail Gershtein, in his comments to Konstantin Khazanovich's book *UFO Zone*, mentioned an observation of a triangular UFO over Lake Onega. Nikolay Solovskiy was on a vacation at the shores of the lake in 1973. One evening, he observed a strange triangle-shaped object in the north. This object moved slowly and occasionally stopped in mid-air. Having reached a very high altitude, it stopped, then turned around 180 degrees and flew back

to its original direction. The triangle had a number of bright lights on it but the witness did not know whether they emitted light or were simply reflecting the Sun.

An interesting report comes to us from 1967; it was sent to the Russian Ufology Center in California many years ago. Grigory Demyanovich Oleynikov, Captain of the fishing boat *Kama* happened to be in Bay of Viborg in the Gulf of Finland in September 1967. The day was cloudy. At approximately 1:30 a.m., the captain noticed a luminescent, milky-white object descending through the cloud. This object stopped and then hovered at an altitude of around 400 meters or so. The witness described the object as a disc with a diameter of about 15 meters. Its outlines were well defined. The bottom portion of the object contained rectangular formations, like 'nozzles' which emitted flames. For two minutes, the object remained motionless. It was bright but not blinding, and nothing else unusual was observed. Then, in complete silence, it suddenly took off straight up into the sky. By that time, the clouds had disappeared, and the witness saw a similar looking object around two kilometers from his boat. Before the object ascended, he saw that the fiery glow in the nozzles seemed much brighter than before. Oleynikov was the only one aboard his ship to observe the object. However, the boatswain of the Soviet ship *Novorosiysk* also observed and reported the same UFO.

Other Lakes, Gulfs and Bodies of Water

Konevets Island is a remote and desolate isle off the southwestern shore of Lake Ladoga, near the Vladimirovka village. The nearest town, Priozersk is some 40 kilometers away. Konevets is just six and a half kilometers long and about two kilometers wide; it is almost completely covered with sandy beaches. From 1944, when the Soviets captured it from the Finns, until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the town was not present on Soviet maps because it contained a classified military base (quartered in an abandoned monastery). With the end of the USSR, the monastery was placed within the St. Petersburg diocese, and the military base closed.

Konevets Isle

The isle is an anomalous zone. UFOs have been seen there through the 1990s and into the 21st century. In the summer of 1993, St. Petersburg researchers had noticed that a large number of fish had beached on the island. In February 1997, a huge triangle-shaped UFO was observed, reportedly hovering near the isle for over an hour. On March 28, 2003, a flight of the same type of UFO was observed over the entire Priozersk region. In August 2005, a number of UFOs of various shapes were reported over the island. [108]

The Gulf of Finland is an arm of the Baltic Sea bordering on Finland, Russia, and Estonia. The eastern parts of the Gulf of Finland belong to

Russia, and some of Russia's most important oil harbors are located here near St. Petersburg (including Primorsk).

Zheltaya Bay is located 55 kilometers from Primorsk. Over twenty years ago, a secret military base was located there. Now it is an open area and the base is gone. During their 1996 expedition, when they were located across of the Beryzoviy Isle on Kurenniyeni Cape, the Russian ufologist Raitarovsky and his colleagues observed cylindrical and spherical UFOs over the Gulf. [109] In 2006, Vadim Chernobrov and his Kosmopoisk expedition revisited the area for further research.

Kronshtadt is located on Kotlin Island near the head of the Gulf of Finland. For dozens of years, UFOs have been allegedly observed in the area, some claim due to the presence of a military base. UFOs or observations by Western powers?

Lake Zerkal'noye is not far from Zelenogorsk, a town located in part of the Karelia district on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. Here too, UFOs have been reported flying over the lake on numerous occasions.

Lake Mednoye can be reached by driving along the Viborg highway, passing Sertolovo and Chernaya Rechka on the way. Yet again, UFOs have been reported there on a number of occasions. Mysterious creatures have been reported by the local residents.[110]

Lake Sukhodol'skoye is located in the Priozersk region in northeastern area of the Karelia Isthmus. There is a military airfield located in this area. This is also a large tectonic area which contains numerous fault lines. Anomalous plants and mushrooms have been discovered (mutations lead to gigantic sizes and some mushrooms cannot be identified).[111] In the 1990s, there were many reports of UFOs and even alleged contact with unidentified humanoid creatures. Raitarovsky and colleagues studied the area in 1994-96 and observed radiant spheres and mysterious black balls that flew over the lake and their camp.

Lake Cheremenetskoye, near Luga, is believed by some Russian researchers to be the site of an alien base. From the end of 1990s through early 2000, UFOs were frequently seen over the lake.[112]

Senior Lieutenant A. Krishtal visited the Gulf of Finland and collected reports relating to anomalous phenomena from Soviet Navy personnel. Two sailors told him of strange sightings of a flying saucer over the lighthouse on the island where their unit was stationed. It was a gray disc shaped like a bagel—with a hollow section in the center. Whether ascending or

descending, the object always flew at an angle. This sighting was later confirmed to Krishtal by another officer, as well as other Russian naval personnel aboard ships based in the area at the time.[113]

The Karelia lakes are beautiful and mystifying. There could well be natural geological explanations for many of these sightings, and of course some could be the result of surveillance by some of Russia's adversaries. But even when one considers all of these rational explanations, there appear to be reports that defy conventional explanation.

Chapter 16 — Secrets of Russia's Lakes: The Robozero Phenomenon, 1663

The most famous UFO sighting in the ancient Russian history occurred during the reign of Czar Alexey. Yuri Roszius and other Russian researchers of the paranormal phenomena have studied it extensively. The event occurred "in the year 171" (that is, the year 7171 from "the creation of the world"), which corresponds to the year 1663 A.D.

The details of this amazing and enigmatic event have been preserved due to the efforts of the Archaeographic Commission, which published a collection of its Historical Acts in 1842. Among these acts was an authentic 17th century document. It was signed by Ivan (Ivashko) Rzhevsky, a laborer who made a statement to his "masters" regarding something that had happened 10 versts (a Russian measurement roughly equal to a kilometer) from their Loza monastery estate.

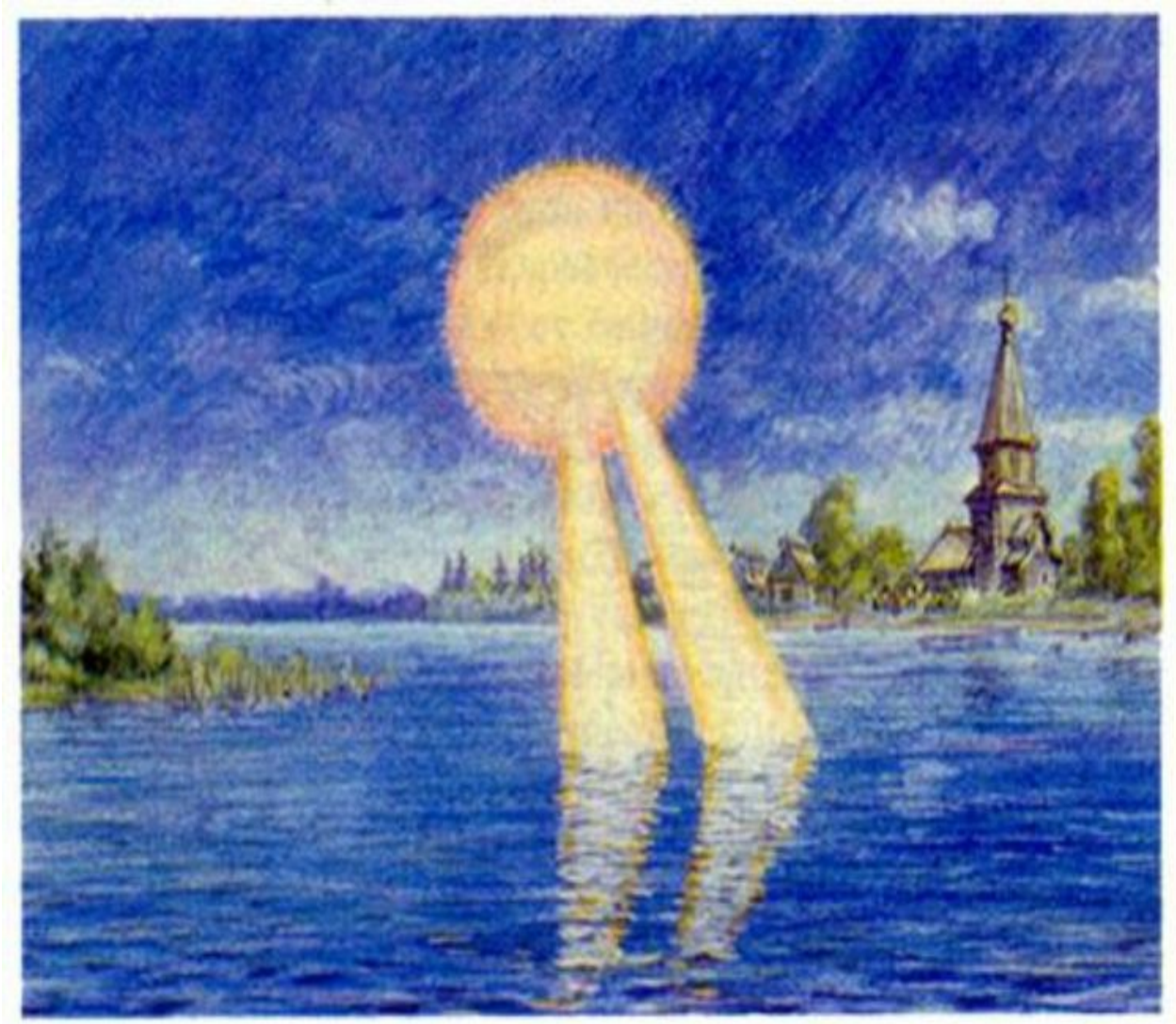
According to the statement, on August 15th, 1663, between 10 a.m. and noon, a “great noise” resounded over the then-existing Robozero Lake, located in the Vologda Region some 50 kilometers southwest of Belozersk. From the north, out of the clear sky there appeared a huge flaming sphere no less than 40 meters in diameter. From its front part, it emitted two “flame” beams approximately “20 sazhens ahead of it” (i.e. around 40 meters; a sazhen is 2.13 meters). From its sides poured blue smoke. This huge ball of fire, its height like that of a modern 15-story building, hovered over the lake.

The phenomenon was observed by a multitude of people. It was the day of the Assumption and villagers from the nearby villages had gathered for Mass at the parish church, which was situated on the shore of the lake. The great noise occurred just as the prayer singing had begun. Terrified by this noise,

the people emerged from the church to the vestibule, but upon seeing the “frightful sight,” they went back into the church and “prayed to the Lord and the Virgin Mary with tears and weeping,” whereupon “the great flame and the two smaller ones vanished.”

However, “the fiery flame” soon appeared again over the lake, somewhat to the west, “about half a versta (approximately 1750 feet) from the spot where it had vanished." Its appearance was just as unexpected as the first time, but on this occasion it didn’t appear to be as bright as before. A little later, the same body, seemingly becoming even brighter and more terrifying, reappeared another half kilometer to the west and then, moving westward, it dimmed and disappeared from view.

The “flame” hovered over Robozero for about an hour and a half. The lake was quite small, “two versts long and about one wide,” and peasants were sailing in a boat there, but the scorching heat did not let them get too close to the phenomenon. They saw that light from the unknown object penetrated the water and reached the bottom of the lake that was about eight meters down (“about four sazhens”). They saw “fish fleeing from the flame towards the shore.” Where the flame touched the water, a strange brown film of oxide was seen on the surface which looked “just like rust” and which was later dispersed by the wind.



The Robozero phenomenon.

Ivan Rzhevsky was an educated and intelligent man, as his observations reveal quite clearly. He went as far as to check out the testimony of an eyewitness, a peasant by the name of Levko Fedorov. He also received written confirmation from the local priests that “such a sign was observed on that date;” only then did Rzhevsky report the occurrence to his superiors. The Russian author provides a detailed description of the phenomenon, but does not offer any subjective interpretation of it.

Many others have tried to interpret the Robozero Phenomenon. The Russian astronomer D. Svyatski, in his book “Astronomical phenomena in Russian chronicles” (Petrograd, 1915), claimed that the eyewitnesses saw

pieces of a meteorite that flew apart after an explosion. If so, how could the people in the boat approach a hovering body? Some have tried to explain it as a ball lightning. Yet there was no storm and no rain that day. Also, a ball lightning's life span is very short, its diameter is not larger than a meter, certainly never 40 meters. Then, there were two rays that were emitted from the body. Ball lightning does not emit rays.

Yuri Roszius analysed Rzhevsky's report in detail. He noted an interesting feature related by eyewitnesses, which was a change in the outer appearance of the object: when it came into view for the third time, it was brighter. For some reason, this occurred before the object's progressive movement westward. In modern times, such an increase in brightness could be attributed to the firing of a jet aircraft's afterburners. Is it by chance that the object's brightness increased before its departure?

The Robozero Phenomenon did not really end in 1663. An expedition was sent to the area in the summer of 1982. It was headed by Candidate of Science (Physics and Mathematical Sciences), E. Gorshkov. He was also the science secretary of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR; and manager of the Magnetic and Ionosphere Laboratory of the Leningrad division of the Institute of Earth Magnetism, Ionosphere and Distribution of Radio Waves of the Soviet Academy of Sciences (IZMIRAN). This Institute was an actively participant in the SETKA secret UFO research program sanctioned by the Soviet government.

The expedition explored the area with special magneto-metric equipment (instruments for measuring the magnitude and direction of a magnetic field). They discovered anomalous changes in the geomagnetic field in the areas of the hypothetical flight trajectory of the object (where it reportedly hovered and radiated). Such changes may be related to powerful electromagnetic influence of the low-flying object on strata of lakes sediments. Characteristics of "magnetic memory" of the sedimentary matter ensured that the traces of such influence were preserved. In the assessment of Gherman Kolchin, Russian writer and UFO researcher, the research of 1982 not only confirmed the objective reality of the Robozero Phenomenon, but also its high energy content.

Lake Korb, 1961

There is a gripping paranormal Soviet incident that took place in another

remote lake, but little is known about it in the West. No coherent explanation has been found so far.[114]

On the morning of April 27, 1961, two inspectors from a lumberyard embarked on an inspection of local dams. In the evening, they arrived at a small lake known as Korb Ozero in Karelia. After their inspection tour, they spent the night some 6 kilometers from Korb Ozero. The next morning, one of the inspectors, Vasily Brodsky, returned to the lake and discovered something quite amazing. Whatever traces they had left the day before were gone. Instead, there was a hole, 18 meters wide, 25 meters long, and 5 meters deep. The hole had something like a "mouth, with sloping walls, facing the shore's cliff." As for the lake, there was an area devoid of ice. No one, not the inspectors, nor the local residents, had seen or heard anything unusual that night.

V. Demidov arrived at the site with a diver after being summoned by Brodsky's telegram. They saw fragments of emerald colored ice floating in the water, some of which had a strange and inexplicable fiber-like material on them. The water also had a grayish foam which contained numerous tiny balls. Demidov said that the balls were black, hollow, resembled burnt millet grain, and easily crumbled to the touch.

The diver, A. Tikhonov, searched the bottom of the lake. He saw that it was covered with mounds of frozen soil. Broken ice lay everywhere. Apparently, whatever had occurred was so instantaneous that the ice, pressed down by soil, had no chance to surface. That would explain the absence of ice on the surface. Tikhonov also discovered a mysterious track that was twenty meters long. At its end was a cylinder-like soil formation, about a meter and a half high. It was as if some pipe-like object had moved along the bottom, pushing the soil in front of it and then it stopped and disappeared. Beyond the unfrozen patch of water the bottom of the lake was completely normal.

The Leningrad technological institute analyzed the ice, the fiber-like material, and the tiny balls. They could not explain why the ice was emerald colored. The fiber was shown to contain magnesium, aluminum, calcium, barium, and titanium. The balls, when studied under a microscope, had a metallic sheen and possessed a structure resembling a crystal. They would not dissolve in any acid. The scientists concluded that the millets were of non-organic and non-natural origin. Indeed, Professor Aleskovski of the USSR Academy of Sciences, who headed chemical research of the Academy, told Demidov that not only were the balls of non-natural formation, but that

he could not even imagine a technology that could create such a product.

Another oddity was that along with the soil that had fallen to the bottom of the lake, there was a tiny plate about one millimeter thick, two centimeters long, and half a centimeter wide. A spectral and chemical analysis of it revealed iron, silica, and additives of platinum, titanium, and aluminum. No unusual radiation was detected. The diver also noted that there was less fallen soil than what should have been expected. The ice around the unfrozen patch of water was free of any soil. What happened to the missing soil?

According to Demidov, prominent officials and the KGB were very interested in what happened, although this was not revealed for many years. The officers and soldiers who initially looked into this, as well as the leading top research laboratories and experts in meteorites, chemistry, ball lightning, and other classified subjects were unable to determine what precisely had happened. Demidov learned that neither the Soviet Armed Forces nor scientific establishment were responsible for the Korb Ozero event.

Officially, the Soviet establishment showed no interest. Even Cosmonaut G. Titov failed to interest scientists in the story. Vice President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, M. Lavrentyev once told Demidov that Soviet scientists had no time for “suspicious holes.”

According to scientist and author Vadim Chernobrov, there are still traces of the mysterious force that transformed the lake. From 1961 through 1979, several expeditions worked in the area of the Korb Lake, one of which was led by noted ufologist, Y. Raitarovsky. The expeditions proved beyond any doubt that whatever had crashed into the soil was neither a missile, nor ball lighting, nor an explosive.[115]

In October 1993, N. Kalashnikov hiked to the lake with a group of companions. The lake looked like a cucumber, elongated from north to south. Two tiny huts were at the shore, used occasionally by hunters and fishermen. Nearby was was an abandoned and dilapidated wooden chapel. The party could only stay a short time, but they were there long enough to collect several kilograms of soil from the area. They also found a strange plate, which had to be dug out of the ground to retrieve. It was square, smooth on one side, strangely ribbed on the other, 20 by 30 centimeters, and 3 to 4 centimeters thick.

Kalashnikov grew ginseng—“the root of life” -in his dacha. He placed the soil from the Korb Lake in his garden and then forgot about it. Four years later, he weighed the roots of the ginseng plant that had grown in the soil

from Korb Ozero and was amazed. The root that had weighed 100 grams just four years ago now weighed 253 grams. It was now a gigantic plant and had grown far bigger than any other ginseng he had ever seen. Radiation was not the cause, for there was none whatsoever in Korb Ozero. The root could not be adequately described, according to Kalashnikov, for it was truly amazing and possessed unusual qualities. He hinted that other amazing things were found relating to the soil he had brought back, but did did not go into details. Although he promised to tell more in the future, to date nothing further has been revealed.[116]

Chapter 17 — Sightings in the Lands of the Baltic Sea

UFOs over a Medieval Russian Battlefield

Chudskoye Lake is among the largest lakes of Russia, and is situated on the border between Russia and Estonia. The well-known Ukrainian researcher and writer, Valeriy Kratokhvil, discussed a manuscript that described the Chudskoye Lake battle of April 5th 1242.[117] This was a crucial regional conflict, also known as Battle of Lake Peipus and The Battle of the Ice. The manuscript contained a curious miniature painting. The painter, whose name history has lost forever, depicted a UFO. A face of someone who observes the battle can be seen through one of its openings or portholes. To add another interesting touch to the Chudskoye Lake Battle manuscript, Kratokhvil pointed out that it stated many eyewitnesses, including Russian troops led by Great Prince Alexander Nevsky, saw something they described as a “divine regiment.” Moreover, this regiment helped the Russians defeat Teutonic Knights who had invaded the Republic of Novgorod.

Another interesting early UFO report has been discussed by Gherman Kolchin,[118] and is detailed in a report kept in the archives of the Navy, USSR.[119] The Russian Navy report mentions Baron de Bie, the Dutch ambassador at the court of Czar Peter the Great, who wrote an account where he described an unusual sighting that took place during the Easter season. The description was recorded under direct orders of Vice-Admiral Kruys

(1657-1727).[120]

The incident took place near St. Petersburg at 9 p.m. on April 2, 1716. The sky was clear and cloudless when a strange, dense and dark cloud appeared in the northeastern sky. Its apex was sharp, its base was wide and it traversed the sky at great speed. At the same time, from the north, another cloud, similar to the first one, also appeared. It moved to the east, approaching the first cloud coming from the west. When the two clouds drew near each other. Some sort of a bright pillar appeared between them and was seen for several minutes. Then both clouds crashed into each other with terrible force and seemingly shattered from the impact. A flame formed at the point of the impact; it was accompanied by smoke and rays of flame shot from it in all directions. Numerous smaller clouds moved at great speeds and emitted flames. Added to this, many objects, described as fiery arrows, appeared in the sky, reaching the altitude of 80 degrees over the horizon. Eyewitnesses described a terrible and fearful scene that reminded them of sea and land battles. The report also mentioned that at that very same time in the northwestern portion of the sky, a giant shiny comet appeared and rose to 12 degrees over the horizon. The entire phenomenon continued for fifteen minutes.

This sighting was of interest not only to foreign diplomats and the Czar's Admiralty Board, but also to the officers of Russian Imperial Navy. But more importantly, the aerial display was witnessed by another figure of historical significance who wrote about it. Naum Akimovich Senyavin, who began his military career as a soldier in 1698 and later became a sailor, joined the Baltic Fleet and was then promoted to the rank of non-commissioned officer. Years later, this distinguished naval commander became Peter the Great's trusted confidant and conducted a number of special missions for the "Emperor of All the Russias." Senyavin first distinguished himself during the Great Northern War of 1700-1721.

Naum Akimovich Senyavin

Our research of his career determined that in January of 1716, after his ship

escaped the ice imprisonment by Texel Island (North Holland), Senyavin arrived in the Baltic waters. Before he was dispatched to England in April, he witnessed the same phenomenon as the Dutch baron, describing it as a fifteen minute aerial battle in very much the same way. “It was not possible,” Senyavin stressed “to describe the fear at the time when both clouds impacted… Also, many small clouds followed the big cloud that came from the west and the flame was so much like lightning that the eyes could not bear it.”[121]

Russian ufologist I. Bogatyrev, who researched this case, concluded that the anomalous nature of the phenomenon and its connection to contemporary UFO phenomenon was undeniable.[122]

Mysterious Flame in the Baltic Sea

A fascinating unexplained phenomenon occurred on August 9, 1845 near Bornholm, an island in the Baltic Sea east of Denmark, south of Sweden, and north of Poland. Soviet journalist Oleg Dzyuba of *Tass* uncovered information about it in old archives and published his findings in *Anomalya* magazine.[123]

Old Russian nautical charts indicated that the depth of the Baltic in the area of Bornholm to be around 57 feet. Suddenly, however, this seemed to change. The logbook of a Swedish pilot mentioned the presence of shallow waters near the island. Stories circulated regarding the testimony of a skipper under oath that he observed with his own eyes how a sailing ship ran into a bank that appeared from nowhere.

Finally, Admiral Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev (1788-1851), a Russian fleet commander and explorer who discovered Antarctica, decided to put an end to confusion.[124] He dispatched the ship *Agamemnon* from Kronshtadt (St. Petersburg’s main seaport) to measure the sea depths near Bornholm. The following report was sent to the high echelon of the Navy’s command by *Agamemnon*’s commander, Captain-Lieutenant Borisov.

> “At midnight, with fresh wind, we observed at close distance from the brig, a powerful flame bursting out from the water with numerous sparkles. The course was plotted straight at this fire, therefore immediately (we) turned into the wind…The area of the fire, around 5 fathoms in the square of the foundation was of irregular shape, reaching height of 2 to 3 feet and maybe more. The color of the flame was reddish; we discerned no smells and not because this was hindered by wind direction. The flame was not extinguished by incoming waves. It was not possible at all to imagine that the visible flame was generated by a burning vessel...”

Captain-Lieutenant Borisov concluded that an underwater volcano was the cause of this phenomenon. But the distinguished Admiral Mikhail Petrovich Lazarev looked for forces of the universe to solve the mystery. He wrote that "this phenomenon and the meteor observed from the vessel [*Gangut*] on August 13th by Dagerort Lighthouse, do they not have something in common with hurricanes that caused great misfortunes this summer to northern shores of Europe; or with unusual phenomenon of aurora borealis (the Northern Lights) in Stockholm and with Baltic Sea flood at Libawa?" [125]

Oleg Dzyuba attempted to find out what really was observed by Captain of the *Agamemnon*. One thing the Soviet journalist learned was that there were no underwater volcanic eruptions in the Baltic in the 19th and 20th centuries. He consulted the experts from the Kamchatka Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (its modern name). They completely rejected Captain Borisov's explanation. But the meteor that had impressed Admiral Lazarev makes one wonder: what was it that seasoned Russian navigator observed in the Baltic sky? The meteor's descent must have been truly impressive to convince the Russian admiral to correlate it with a number of other amazing contemporary phenomena. But what meteor, asked Oleg Dzyuba, could generate such a hellish fire that incoming waves could not extinguish it? He never got the answer to his question.

Some researchers have inferred that one or more UFOs crashed into the cold waters of the Baltic Sea in August 1845, generated a flood and hurricanes, caused shallow waters and instantaneously appearing banks, burned in the waves that could not snuff out the flames, and possibly left fragments at the bottom of the sea. Alternatively of course, it could well have been a mixture of natural phenomenon including a meteor impact.

Baltic Sea USOs in the 20th Century

During the summer of 1947, Fyodor Pavlyuk was serving on the coast of the Baltic Sea, guarding artillery battalion 612 (anti-aircraft gunners). It was a clear day when he noticed several spherical objects flying from the direction of the sea at an altitude of some 200 meters. The diameters of these objects were also about 200 meters. They moved slowly, easily rocking, stopping, and hovering over the battalion's guns. Two smaller spheres separated from the original group. These smaller objects were around 70 centimeters in diameter and looked like radiant balls. They flew around the guns.

Pavlyuk grabbed his rifle, caught up with one of the spheres and pierced it

with the bayonet. There was a flash and the bayonet was burnt to a crisp. The spheres slowly ascended and merged with the larger, original group of spheres, which subsequently flew away.

Another Baltic Sea UFO/USO incident occurred during the brief period when Soviet censorship policy toward UFOs became inexplicably mild. This was in 1967, which included an unprecedented television appeal to the Soviet populace to report their UFO sightings to Feliks Zigel and his colleagues. Although this period of UFO freedom in the USSR did not last long, reports about UFOs, both in the West and the Soviet Union, appeared on the pages of the newspapers while it lasted. One such incident took place in November 1967, when a gigantic UFO appeared over the shore of the Baltic Sea near Liepaja, Latvia's third largest city. It was a semi-sphere of huge proportions, glimmering as it hovered low over the ground. Clearly, it could not be mistaken for a cloud, airplane, satellite, or any other conventional object. Its glow was fiery and painful to look at with unprotected eyes. Later it began to move, and quickly vanished over the horizon. Among those who witnessed the incident were meteorologists. [126]

In October 1985, there was another interesting sighting over the Baltic Sea. The Soviet motor ship *Baltiysky-35* was bound from Lubeck to Riga, when those on board observed a bright dot in the sky with concentric circles of light-green color that emanated from it. [127] Konstantin Khazanovich considers this event to be result of the launch of a Soviet ballistic missile from the Murmansk area in the Kola Peninsula. In 2002, Khazanovich, who was an active member of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR, published his book *UFO Zone*. This was a tremendously important work, because the author, a diligent researcher, argued that a number of well-known Russian UFO cases were in reality secret Soviet military tests.

During the late 1980s, while Mikhail Gorbachev's policies forever changed the huge country, a Soviet Navy officer named Nikolay Dyomin published a fascinating article about military observations of UFOs. He stated that, just like many other Soviet military officers, he did not consider UFOs to be optical illusions. The UFOs his colleagues observed were the same saucers, balls, and rays as seen throughout the ages in other parts of the world, but recorded with the precision and impartiality of a military report. Quite often, he wrote, naval observers utilized special technical means to record these objects, in some cases at different points in their flight dynamics. The

sightings, which were checked and verified by Soviet fleet meteorological officers, were positively shown to be of objects that were not the result of human technogenic activity or optical illusions. [128]

In Estonia's port of Loksa during the early summer of 1990, Soviet Naval officer A. Maksimovich reported a strange bright object that hovered noiselessly in the clear sky. For four hours, he watched it through a telescope. The UFO was spherical, very bright, and changed colors. Other crew members and their commander also observed this object, which did not register on the onboard radar. A nearby border guard vessel also observed the object and similarly could not pick it up on radar.

The Kodumaa Project

There was a report some years ago in Russia that a joint Russian-Finnish expedition of scientists from Jyväskylä University (Finland) and the Peter the Great Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography (Russia) was completed in the autumn of 1996. The report stated that the Finnish government had invested over 110 million Finnish marks into the Kodumaa Project. This project had been initiated before the disintegration of the USSR. However, we could not find any further confirmation of the existence of this project and those who had participated in it.

In 1986 young Leningrad scientists Vladimir Majdanov and Aleksey Knyazev discovered a weak radioactive trace. They established that its path lay through Scandinavia from Helsinki, toward Kronshtadt, and abruptly ended in the Volosovo area of the USSR. In 1990, scientists from Finland and Sweden reported that the signal, which was weakest on Soviet territory, became more powerful in the Scandinavia Mountains. The Soviet scientists both came to a conclusion that this was a trajectory of a crashed alien ship.

If so, then what happened to its crew and where were the fragments of the ship? To answer their questions, foreign scientists joined the research, and a Swedish satellite performed measurements and studied the radioactive trace in the Arctic Ocean. The conclusion was reached that, most likely, a disaster took place before the First Ice Age in Europe—and perhaps even caused the Ice Age—when an alien craft reached its optimal trajectory and tried to land in the area of the Scandinavia Ridge. The ship probably touched the ridge, and only a part of the emergency capsule reached Volosovo. [129]

Knyazev and Majdanov did not have necessary equipment and funds to conduct a more comprehensive research. But they concluded that

archaeology supported their hypothesis. They attended a painting exhibition featuring the great artist Nicholas Roerich. There the scientists noticed a drawing of an ancient burial ground, considered to be sacred by the local population. Roerich's archaeological expedition conducted digs in the area of his Volosovo manor, Izvar. This is close to St. Petersburg and the Baltic Sea. Knyazev and Majdanov were able to research the documents of Roerich's expedition and obtain exact description and measurement of the burial ground. According to them, the measurements matched those of the emergency capsule of the American Apollo spaceships. Other interesting details about the burial ground included a position for a sitting "cosmonaut" and strange artifacts found there. Russian scientists believe that those who survived the crash, or perhaps early humans, buried the dead aliens and then tried to recover fragments of the ship. The Ice Age, however, soon forced human population to retreat to the Altai and Pamir areas. A gigantic glacier then dragged fragments of the crashed ship to the Arctic Ocean and partially covered them. Perhaps Nicholas Roerich guessed the same. Many doctors and scientists observed that the Volosovo indigenous people have different anthropological features than residents of Estonia and Finland, as well as from Russia. Ancient Russian manuscripts and directives of Czar Peter the Great, describe the magic of "Chud sorcerers." The Russian Orthodox Church and Muscovite princes put down uprisings of the local adherents of ancient magic. Yet, there are still legends and ancient knowledge in the Baltic, as well as burial grounds shaped like capsules.

Clearly, the St. Petersburg and Baltic Sea area have their share of UFO/USO mystery. Could it be that the Russian military ever had, or might still have, a secret UFO research establishment close to St. Petersburg? It is rumored that other countries like the United States and Great Britain have such a facility. Area 51 in the United States has become well known for its alleged UFO studies, just as RAF Rudloe Manor in the United Kingdom is also rumored to have investigated UFOs.

Chapter 18 — USO Sightings at the Sea of Azov

Explosion

Henichesk is a port city along the Sea of Azov in southern Ukraine. On August 8, 1978, at the shore of the sea near the city, a large group of tourists observed a flying disc-shaped object, three times larger than the visible Moon. It had protrusions at the top and bottom, two rows of portholes, and was surrounded by a bright-orange glow. Every 15 seconds, smaller discs flew out from its lower protrusion. A blinding explosion accompanied the appearance of each of the smaller discs. There were between 15 and 20 of these smaller discs in total. They hovered motionlessly for about 2-3 seconds and then rapidly departed toward the Black Sea. [130]

Ancient Ukraine

Ukrainian author Dmitry Lavrov collected numerous interesting reports to prove his hypothesis that Ukraine was visited by extraterrestrials long ago. In his articles, Lavrov describes silver figurines discovered in the Martinovsky hidden treasure trove, buried near the mouth of the Ros'River close to Kiev. The figurines bear a striking resemblance to the dogu figurines of Japan and drawings of the "Great Martian god" of the African people from the plateau of Tassili in Libya. The Ukrainian figurines also have attire resembling a spacesuit, including headgear. Are they representations of the ancient "swimmers" *UFODOS*, the leading Ukrainian UFO research organization, has photos of the discoveries and has kindly shared them with us.

Manuscripts from the days of the ancient *Rus* contain stories that could be interpreted as UFO sightings. Of course, people during that era used different language and perceived the world differently than we do today. One famous manuscript named *Povest'vremennikh let* has this curious account. In the year 1065 A.D., it tells us, there was a *znameniye* (an omen or sign) in the western portion of the sky, a great star with blood red rays. For seven evenings, it would appear after sunset. At the same time, a baby was thrown into the Setoml'(a river that once existed in the Kiev area). This baby was caught by fishermen in their nets and rescued. They looked after the baby through the day.

However, this child had a terrifying appearance. The manuscript described his face as having "shameful" features, whatever these might have been. Indeed, the infant had other features that could not be described because of "shame" it would have caused. Apparently, they were so frightened by the

child's appearance that they tossed it back into the river. During this time, it was said the sun also changed, and ceased being bright, looking instead more like the Moon.

Who was the strange creature born under the rays of the bloody star?

Zaporozhskaya Sich of Ukraine

The *Zaporozhskaya Sich* was founded in the early 16th century. It soon became the military-administrative and political organization of the Ukrainian Cossacks (*Kozaki*). The Zaporozhye Cossacks became masters of the lands beyond the rapids of the Dnieper River. The impregnable Khortitsa Island became one of the centers of Cossack society. The Zaporozhskaya Sich were abolished in 1775.

The chronicle of Samoil Velichka deals with the history of the Zaporozhskaya Sich at the end of the 17th century. The Cossack chieftain (*ataman*) at the time was Ivan Sirko. The chronicle mentions an event that occurred on December 15, 1680. Just before sunset, an unusual-looking object appeared in the sky. The people who observed the object became agitated, confused, and fearful. The object, which they initially interpreted to be perhaps a star or a comet, hung in the sky over the Sich for almost a month. Another Cossack chronicler, Semovidets, described a similar event on the same date, but described the object as a small star that emitted a very bright and great pillar that reached "half of the sky. "When the object descended, the Cossacks fired on it from their arquebus (*pischali*), a matchlock firearm and forerunner of the modern rifle. The unidentified object hovered for a while before finally moving off.

Final Remarks

As researchers we recognize that there may well be rational explanations for a number of the events that had been recorded as unidentified. Many unexplained sea serpents from the past, for instance, are now understood and well-studied sea creatures. Myth and legend still play a part in today's UFO/USO research, and we would be foolish to ignore this. We have

attempted to provide the reader with a flavor of the many different accounts of USO and UFO reports from the lakes and seas of the former Soviet Union along with accounts from Soviet seaman, both military and civilian.

However, it would also be arrogant of us to profess that modern science has discovered all there is to know about our lakes, seas, and oceans. The waters of the world still hold many mysteries and we trust we have given you a sample of some of these in this book.

About the Authors

Paul Stonehill, a former Soviet Jewish refugee from the USSR (Ukraine), is an American lecturer, author, and researcher of Russian and Eurasian ufology and paranormal phenomena. He has spoken at numerous conferences throughout the U.S. and Europe, and has written many articles in English and Russian on UFOs and USOs, as well as several articles about the history of ancient China and its paranormal aspects. He is the co-author with Philip Mantle of several books about Soviet and post-Soviet UFO phenomena.

Philip Mantle is an international UFO researcher, lecturer and broadcaster. His books have been published in six different languages around the world. He is the former Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association and former MUFON representative for England. Philip has written articles and features for numerous publications around the world and has been both editor and assistant editor of high street UFO publications. His book, *Once Upon a Missing Time*, was published by Richard Dolan Press. Philip lives in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, England. He can be contacted via his website at: www.beyondroswell.com.

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Endnotes

1. Nepomnyaschy, Nikolai. *Iz Sekretnikh Arkhivov Razvedok Mira* (*From the Secret Archives of The World's Intelligence Services*), Moscow, 1998.
2. *Bul'var Gordona*, Issue 31[67].

3. Those who had participated were given the highest USSR awards. The chief constructor of the Poisk-6 was Yuri K. Sapozhkov.
4. Dr. Anatoly M. Sagalevitch, head of the Deep Water Manned Submersible Laboratory of the P.P. Shirshov Institute of Ocean Studies (of the Russian Academy of Sciences), was the designer of the MIR deep-diving submersibles. He led five scientific and photographic expeditions to the *Titanic* and personally made more than 30 dives to the wreck.
5. *NLO* Magazine, 1999 for example.
6. This sighting was mentioned in a 2001 article written by Valentin Psalomschikov, and published in *NLO Magazine*.
7. Interview by I. Mosin of *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* newspaper, on August 5, 1984, for his article *Zagadki nebesnikh yavleniy* (Mysteries of celestial phenomena).
8. Gorshov was a naval commander during the Cold War who oversaw the expansion of the Soviet Navy into a global force. At the time, he was Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy and Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union.
9. From *Podmoskoviye-Nedelya*, 8 August 2001.
10. From Soviet Vice Admiral Yuri Kvyatkovsky, Head of the Intelligence Directorate of the Main Staff of the Soviet Navy from 1987-1992. From Tayna tryokh okeanov (Mystery of three oceans) a documentary on oceanic mysteries, directed and written by former Colonel V. Pravdivtsev, featured on Russian television in 2006.
11. Captain 1st Rank Yevgeny Litvinov, From *Tayna tryokh okeanov* (Mystery of three oceans) a documentary on oceanic mysteries, directed and written by former Colonel V. Pravdivtsev, featured on Russian television in 2006.
12. Chernavin was the last Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Navy and president of the Russian Union of Submariners. He commanded the Northern Fleet between 1977 and 1981.
13. A Delta II–class Project 667BD submarine, the K-182 was launched in January 1975 and commissioned on 30 September 1975. Project 667BD submarine cruisers were actively utilized in the Soviet and Russian navies from 6 February 1973 through to 24 April 1996.
14. The K-433 was a Project 667BDR Kalmarclass Delta III nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine of the Soviet Navy and is presently, under the name Svyatoy Georgiy Pobedonosets, part of the modern Russian Navy.
15. The K-211 was also a Project 667BDR Kalmar-class Delta III nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine; now, as part of the Russian Navy, its name is Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. The submarine joined the Soviet fleet in 1980 and, as of 2009, is active in the Russian Pacific Fleet.
16. Smolovsky's statement comes from an article by Andrei Moiseyenko and Natalya Lebedeva, published in the Russian newspaper Komsomol'skaya Pravda–Vladivostok (2 November 2008), titled "NLO: kvakayuschiye v okeane" ("UFO: those who croak in the ocean").
17. http://www.zerkalo-nedeli.com/nn/show/344/31112/
18. George Papashvili and his wife recall the incident in the book *Anything Can Happen*. New York, St. Martin's Press, 1925.
19. This report was published in Mikhail Yeltsin's book in 1992, *Krazgdake NLO* or *To find the meaning of UFOs*.
20. Demidenko was a true humanitarian who hated totalitarianism. He was a tolerant man who survived the Nazi occupation and had long-lasting memories of Nazi atrocities against Soviet Jews. As a young man, upon graduation from a military college, Demidenko became a translator and interpreter of Chinese. He was dispatched by the General Staff of the Soviet Army to Red China's Air Force HQ and also served in North Korea during the war.
21. Many years later, after the fall of the USSR, Colonel Antonetz was appointed Commander of Ukraine's Air Force.
22. Published in the People newspaper, July 17, 2009 issue.
23. Yermilov discussed the strange aircraft malfunctions to Gherman Kolchin and Arvid Mordvin-

Schadro, who led the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR.

24. This most curious episode was confirmed by Colonel Kolchin in his book *Fenomen NLO-vzglyad iz Rossii* or *UFO phenomenon-a view from Russia* published in 1997.

25. In an article by A. Pavlov for the Russian newspaper *Komsomol'skaya Pravda* in its December 1, 2000 issue.

26. *NLO Magazine*, Issue 3, 2001. Her article also curiously stated that Russian intelligence services had declassified KGB files pertaining to UFOs. Obviously this announcement could not have been a reference to the September 1991 files declassified by KGB and turned over to Pavel Popovich.

27. Borovikov's experience was published in the book *XX vek: khronika neobjasnimogo* (Moscow, 1996).

28. He mentioned the episode in *Letuchi Gollandets* publication (1995).

29. The Sanskrit word Ni-Vata-Kavacha means Ni (no) vata (air) Kavacha (casing, shelter, garment and coat-of-mail). In other words, "sheltered in airless capsules," or wearing garments without air. Some researchers consider this as a description of a space suit. Jijith Nadumuri Ravi, a researcher and writer in India, considers that it either describes their air-tight garments or their air-tight dwellings. Jijith Nadumuri Ravi's website is: http://ancientvoice.wikidot.com/about-me.

30. The Mahabharata of Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa, 1887. We have searched through this and a number of other sources to find details of the battle).

31. Mahabharata, Book III, Chapter 167.

32. Kuzovkin graduated from the Moscow Chemical Machine-Building Institute in 1980, at the age of 40. From 1977 through 1988, he worked with famed Soviet UFO researcher Feliks Zigel. He was a leading expert of UFO photography, and by 1990 had collected over 10,000 UFO reports. Kuzovkin believed that Earth was a living organism, maimed and injured by mankind. He was afraid that our clamor around anomalous phenomena and UFOs, as well as tactless and interference with their world could cause unpredictable consequences. He mentioned in his interviews that Russian science still refused to consider UFO phenomenon as anything serious, while research centers in the United States knew the seriousness of the phenomenon; that ufological research was conducted in Europe and special UFO research departments functioned in China. In 1993, Kuzovkin officially abandoned any further research in the study of anomalous phenomena and burned most of his archives and photographic material.

33. This sighting was featured in the 2001 article written by Valentin Psalomschikov and published in *NLO Magazine*.

34. Formerly named the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR, it was founded in 1980. The society had studied tens of thousands of cases UFO sightings and reached a conclusion that UFOs are real. Litvinov's discussion appeared in the Russian newspaper *Zhizn* on December 26, 2002.

35. In an interview he gave to *FAKTY* newspaper, December, 2007. Soroka added that this sighting was made public by Captain 1st rank Aleksey Korzhev.

36. This information was revealed in Vladimir Ajaja's interviews with the Russian media. We looked into this further and established that Domislovsky was in charge of the Fleet's intelligence from 1970 to 1975. A distinguished WWII veteran and former submariner who passed away in 1979, he had been involved with Navy intelligence since 1953, from the Baltic Fleet to the Pacific Ocean.

37. MosNews.com, July 16, 2009.

38. Valeriya Peresilkina, "Zagadki glubin" ("Secrets of the Depths") in *Sekretniye Issledovaniya* (Belarus, issue 3{212}). This article also lists USOs observed by the Russian Navy in a variety of locations worldwide.

39. This sighting was mentioned in the article written by Valentin Psalomschikov, a Russian scientist, journalist, and author, and was published in 2001 in *NLO Magazine*.

40. Valentin Psalomschikov, *NLO Magazine*, 2001.

41. *Nedelya* newspaper 1977 (issue 18). *Tekhnika Molodezhi* 1990, Issue 5.
42. In an interview in the Soviet newspaper *Vechernyaya Odessa*, dated February 28, 1977.
43. As mentioned previously, Zigel's contributions were immense, and he wrote a number of books about UFOs in the USSR (disseminated as manuscripts. which for the most part, in view of State censorship, could not be published). Zigel passed away in 1988, one year before the censorship chains were broken and the UFO phenomenon ceased to be a taboo subject.
44. This was reported in Felix Zigel's 1979 manuscript *Nablyudeniya NLO v USSR* (UFO Observations in the USSR).
45. The report was published in a number of Russian UFO books and originally was included in Alexander Kuzovkin's 1981 manuscript about statistical UFO data in the USSR.
46. Published in *Zagadki Sfinksa* magazine (Issue 3, 1992), from Odessa, Ukraine.
47. Reported in issue 6, 1987 of *Vokrug Sveta* magazine.
48. From Vadim Chernobrov's *Entsiklopedia Neopoznannnogo* (Encyclopedia of the Unidentified, published in Russia in 1998.
49. *Trud*, July 13, 1974.
50. This brief report was published the *Russian Digest*, published in 1998 (Okkul'tniye sili SSSR, St. Petersburg).
51. The case was described in Yuri Smirnov's article "Ischez samolyot" (Disappearance of an Aircraft) *Chetvyortoye izmereniye* newspaper in Yaroslavl, Issue 10, 1992.
52. This information is from Feliks Zigels'manuscript *Petrozavodskoye Divo* (1980).
53. We are not sure that this was part of the Instruction per SETKA-AN (the academic branch of the SETKA program). If it was, the term NLO (UFO) would not be appropriate; perhaps, the Captain referred to something else.
54. The incident was mentioned in a Russian TV documentary about USOs, aired on Channel 3 in 2009. Captain Sokolov himself was mentioned in N. Matyushin's book *17th Operational Squadron of Ships of the Pacific Fleet*.
55. *Chetvertoye izmereniye i NLO*, Issue 6, 1997.
56. This report came from V. P. Krilosov and can be located in Valentin Golts's archives (Mikhail Gershtein has graciously provided it to us). Golts was a UFO researcher and journalist in Leningrad (St. Petersburg) and an active participant in the projects of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR.
57. *Priroda i anomalniye yavlenia* newspaper published an article about the incident in its Issue 7, 1990.
58. This was reported in the 1989 article in the local newspaper *Sovetskiy Sakhalin* by V. Plotnikov in his article "NLO ili gazovoye oblako" or "UFO or a gas cloud?"
59. This sighting was mentioned in an article written by Valentin Psalomschikov and published in *NLO Magazine* in 2001.
60. The importance of the area was largely due to the Zelyoniy Mis harbor, which served the entire Northern Sea Route, and before the 1990s was the largest Soviet Arctic seaport.
61. One of the reasons for this secrecy was the ongoing full scale Soviet production of synthetic diamonds.
62. As students, for example, they were able to learn the information in the 1980 *Sverkhtvyordiye Materiali* science book, where the impact diamonds were described; it was published in Kiev.
63. This information was presented in a Russian TV documentary about USOs, aired on Channel 3, 2009; and was referred to by Vitaly Pravdivtsev, a Russian colonel, scientist and film director; and Yevgeny Litvinov, Soviet submariner, author and former Chairman of the Anomalous Phenomena Commission of the Russian Geographical Society in St. Petersburg.
64. Lukin's interview was published in *Anomaliya*, October 1997.
65. This letter, written in 1979, was published ten years later, in *Lukomorye* digest, a supplement of KRASNOYARSKY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper, October 29, 1989 issue. The sightings were

confirmed by a reporter from ZAPOLYARNAYA PRAVDA newspaper, Sergey Shvetsov. Mikhail Gershtein mentioned the letter in his books.
66. The well-known Russian ufologist Aleksandr Kuzovkin frequently referred to this letter in his writings.
67. UFONAVIGATOR online magazine, December 2005 issue.
68. This information as well as other fascinating stories of the Khatanga hydrometeorological station is from the following site (in Russian) of the Russian Federal Northern Hydrometeorological Service: http://www.sevmeteo.ru/articles/49/616.shtml
69. This information is from A. Myagchenkov and A. Malikov's article in the 1992 digest published in Moscow, *Prishel'tsi raydom* or *Aliens are nearby*.
70. This case is mentioned in A. Kul'sky's book Na perekrestkah vselennoy or at the crossroads of the Universe, Kiev, Ukraine, 1997.
71. This information comes from the 2007 book *Planetarny Mif* (*Planetary Myth*) by Violeta Violyeva and Dmitry Loginov, as referred to on the following Russian website: http://otvet.mail.ru/question/37269720/.
72. This information comes from Igrayuschiye teni or Playful shadows, a 2005 book written by I. Pavlovich and O. Ratnik, who referred to an article published in 1998. It was titled *Podvodniy ledokol strategicheskogo naznacheniya* (or *Underwater icebreaker of the strategic mission*), written by A. Sklyarov and published in the prestigious magazine *Nauka i Zhizn'* Issue 7.
73. *K vam NLO ne zaletalo?* (Did a UFO fly to you?) by K. Puteyev. This article was published in 1991 in the official newspaper of the Northern Fleet, *Na strazhe Zapolyarya*, in Severodvinsk.
74. The source of the report is Vadim Chernobrov's book Nad propastyu neraskritikh tayn or Over the abyss of unsolved mysteries, Moscow, 1997.
75. This was reported in the February 2nd issue of NLO magazine, in an article titled Incredible "Russian" submarines (the author's name is unavailable). The article states the incident occurred in the North Sea. However, according to a Russian TV documentary about USOs which aired on Channel 3 in 2009, the incident took place in the Barents Sea.
76. In an article by Alexey B. Blinov, published by *Anomaliya* newspaper (Issue 4, 1996).
77. As stated by Artur Chilingarov, the Russian president's special representative for cooperation in the Arctic and Antarctic, on The Voice of Russia radio program.
78. A noted Russian UFO researcher and proponent of the ancient astronaut hypothesis, Vladimir Avinsky, has analysed local legends.
79. Described as three quarters of an arshin, an old Russian measure of length.
80. In the language of the inhabitants,300 sazhens away from the vessel; at approximately the same height (one sazhen is equal to 84 inches).
81. This case was reported in the Vostochniy Vestnik newspaper in Vladivostok on July 10, 1899.
82. This report comes from K. Pronina article NLO v Primorye: samiye anomal'niye mesta or UFO in the Maritime Province: most anomalous sites, published in Komsomol'skaya Pravda newspaper, March 17, 2005 (Mikhail Gershtein used this report in his books).
83. See Vadim Chernobrov's *Entsiklopedia Neopoznannnogo* or *Encyclopedia of the Unidentified*, 1998.
84. This incident was described in a number of Russian publications but the original reference comes from the interview with Academician V. Troitsky in an article published in 1982. The article was titled "NLO: mif ili real'nost" or "UFO: myth or reality" and appeared in *Nauka I religiya* magazine, issue 10.
85. Reported in the Tikhookeanskaya Gazeta newspaper (Khabarovsk) on October 21, 1989.
86. *Dzhentry*, Issue 9, 1993.
87. In an article entitled "NLO na dne Arala" or "UFO at the bottom of the Aral Sea" in *Leninskaya Smena*, Issue 36, March 1, 2011.
88. *Sobesednik*, issue 6, 2001.

89. This report was published in *NLO magazine* (Issue 8, 1997).
90. V. Gorsky, "Krutitsa-vertitsa disk goluboy" ("The blue disc is rotating around" in the Belarusian military newspaper *Vo slavu rodiny*, Minsk, May 22, 1993.
91. *Tekhnika Molodezhi*, Issue 12, 1991. Yerokhina quoted from the book *Svecheniye Morya* (Marine Luminescence), by N. I. Tarasov (Moscow, Nauka Publishing, 1956).
92. This report is from a manuscript by someone named Pamirenko; the title of her 1979 work was *Nashi kosmicheskiye druziya i dobrozhelateli* (*Our cosmic friends and well-wishers*). It was also featured by Colonel Gherman Kolchin in his books. Kolchin was deputy Chairman of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR (after the decision made by Academician A. Treshnikov, President of the Geographic Society, the Commission was founded by Vadim Vilinbakhov and other UFO research devotees). He was an expert in the field of UFO research and published several books. His book *Fenomen NLO—vzglyad iz Rossii* (*UFO phenomenon—A view from Russia*) was published in 1997. Kolchin presented detailed information at a number of meetings of the Commission, which later became part of his books. Kolchin gave many lectures in Leningrad colleges, as well as in the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD). Colonel Kolchin passed away in February of 2007.
93. This information comes from Feliks Zigel's article published in Mongolia in 1967, Ulan-Ude. "Letayuschiye tarelki-mif ili real'nost' or "Flying saucers, myth or reality?"
94. This information comes from the archive of historian Vadim Vilinbakhov (the report was published in Gherman Kolchin's books).
95. This report by S. V. Tyutin was included in Felix Zigel's manuscript Petrozavodskoye divo (1979). Zigel is said to have had a photograph of the object in his archives.
96. This case was mentioned in the manuscript of a well-known Russian ufologist, Vadim Vilinbakhov, who wrote about it shortly before he passed away in 1982. He had been the first Chairman of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR and was a Candidate of Science (History). We have mentioned his research on other USO cases. His 1982 manuscript was entitled *NLO v nashem nebe* (*UFOs in our sky*). Vilinbakhov also formulated the psychological phenomenon known as the detachment effect. The gist of it is that people are prone to ignore incomprehensible and frightful phenomena. This happens to people of all backgrounds, from children to academicians.
97. From Nikolai Nepomnyaschy's book *Stranniki Vselennoy* (*Wanderers of the Universe*) published in Moscow, 1996.
98. *FAKTY*, December 12, 2007.
99. The name means Bear-mountain, because it resembles a bear. This mountain was worshipped by pagans in antiquity. it is located in the sea and is surrounded by the Adalara islands. Hidden in a bizarre-looking set of rocks near the shore is the hidden country-house of the famous Russian writer Anton Chekhov. The water is said to be unusually clear and clean in the area.
100. This was also a destination point for an early expedition of A. Barchenko, a protégé of the Soviet secret police in the 1920s and an arduous researcher of the paranormal world.
101. *Anomaliya* (Issue 1, 2005). The article in question was written by Igor Gusev.
102. From Gherman Kolchin's archives of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR.
103. The article on this appeared in *Zhizn* newspaper, written by Grigory Tel'nov and titled *NLO* (*UFO*).
104. *NLO* Magazine Issue 9, 1998.
105. A. Assinovskaya and A. Nikonova, Zagadochniye, "Yavleniya na Ladozhskom Ozere" ("Mysterious Phenomena at Lake Ladoga." *Priroda* (Issue 5, 1995).
106. *Anomaliya*, Issue 13, 2000.
107. The report was among a batch of documents of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Institute of Earth Magnetism, Ionosphere and Wave Distribution (IZMIRAN). The Institute director was none other than

V. Migulin of the SETKA program. The report itself was compiled by A. S. Savich and dated February 19, 1982.

108. All of this information is from Vadim Chernobrov and the Kosmopoisk research organizations files. Chernobrov and his colleagues there have been collecting information regarding Karelia's anomalous phenomena for many years.

109. The report of the Raitarovsky expedition, drawings, and photographs was published in the Russian newspaper *Anomaliya* in 1996.

110. Reported in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper in 2006 (Issue 98) and is contained in the private archives of Russian UFO researchers from the Russian Geographic Society.

111. This information comes from a book by Y. Melnikov a St. Petersburg geologist who has studied anomalous phenomena in the area.

112. This is from the Kosmopoisk 2006 expedition to the area (in conjunction with the Russian Geographic Society).

113. This information is from Krishtal's no-nonsense but, alas, brief article in the newspaper *Sovetskiy Moryak*, March 30, 1999.

114. The source of the case is found in book authored by V. Demidov entitled *Mi ukhodim poslednimi* (*We are the last ones to depart*), published by Molodaya Gvardia in 1966. Demidov, who was a former member of the Commission for Anomalous Phenomena, investigated the case. He wrote the first article about the event to appear in the Soviet media (*Na strazhe Rodini* newspaper, November 27, 1963), and wrote a follow-up article about it in August 1993 entitled "Taina Gluhogo Ozera" ("Mystery of the remote lake"), published in *Na strazhe Rodini*, issues 7 and 8, 1997.

115. From *Entsiklopedia Nepoznannogo* (*Encyclopedia of the Unknown*), compiled by Vadim Chernobrov and published in Moscow in 1998.

116. This information comes from his article in *Nastrazhe Rodini* (Issues 7 and 8, 1997).

117. Valeriy Kratokhvil' *NLO-mashina vremeni*, Kiev, 1993.

118. Gherman Kolchin, *UFO phenomenon, a view from Russia*, 1994.

119. F. 135, Op. I, D. 519, L. 25-26). We have checked other sources as well. The phenomenon was mentioned in several documents.

120. As a historical footnote, this Norwegian-born Russian Navy commander was invited by Peter the Great in 1697 to serve as a vice-admiral. Kruys' assignment was to establish the Russian Black Sea Fleet. From 1705, he was responsible for establishment of the Baltic Fleet. The Russian Emperor Peter the Great profoundly respected Kruys and in 1712 he was invited to be the stand-in father at Peter's wedding. In 1715 Kruys was returned from exile. The Norwegian was initially sentenced to death for errors during the Swedish blockade of St. Petersburg; later he was forgiven by Peter the Great, but exiled to Kazan. Finally, Kruys received clemency and was appointed to a service in the Admiralty Board. Hence, his eagerness in trying to return to former glory resulted in the generation of a tremendously interesting and worthwhile UFO sighting report. In any event, Kornely Ivanovich Kruys, from 1718 onward, served as the Admiralty Board vice-president.

121. His detailed description is found in the digest *Materials for history of the Russian Navy*, compiled by S. Yelagin, published in St. Petersburg, 1866, Volume 2. Baltic Fleet (1716-1725), pages 111-112. Материалы для истории русского флота. Составитель С. Елагин. СПб, 1866 г., стр. 111-112). Том 2. Балтийский флот (1716—725).

122. His views were stated in a manuscript titled "The 275th-year anniversary of Baltic UFO" (English translation) St. Petersburg, 1991.

123. Oleg Dzyuba, "Waves could not extinguish the flame" (English translation) *Anomalya*, March 1991.

124. Lazarev, the Russian naval commander, navigator and admiral, was Commander-in-Chief of Baltic Fleet and Black Sea Ports between the years of 1833-1850.

125. Lazarev was referring to the Kõpu Lighthouse, completed in 1531, considered the third oldest continuously operating lighthouse in the whole world, still showing its light up to 35 miles out to the

sea. It was also known as Dagerort Lighthouse. The lighthouse is located on Kõpu peninsula on the island of Hiiumaa, off the Estonian coast in the Baltic Sea. In 1710, as a result of the Great Northern War the island fell under the control of the Russian Empire. Libawa, founded in 1625, was until 1914 one of the main ports of the Russian empire. Libawa (Libau in German or Liepaja in Latvian) is a Baltic port city on the northern end of Lake Liepaja, in the Kurland region, Latvia. *Gangut* was a ship of the Russian Imperial Navy; it was Ship-of-the Line and entered the service in 1719. Floods in the Baltic Sea are referred to as storm floods. One such Baltic Sea flood ravaged the coast from Denmark to Pomerania in November of 1872, the worst storm surge in the Baltic. Something similar must have ravaged Libawa in 1845.

126. From a Russian TV documentary on UFOs, *Ochevidnoye-Neveroyatnoye* that aired in Russia in 1991.· This was reported in the article "Zagadochnoye yavleniye NAD morem" ("Mysterious phenomenon over the sea" , *Sovetskaya Latvia* newspaper, Riga, December 2nd, 1967.

127. From the archive of the Leningrad Commission for Anomalous Phenomena of the Geographic Society of the USSR.

128. *A YA. Magazine* (Issue 2, 1991) in Estonia published this article, which included Dyomin's 1976 sighting of a UFO over Estonia.

129. *Anomaliya*, Issue 2, 1997.

130. From Feliks Zigel's 1980 manuscript *Posadki NLO v SSSR* (*UFO landings in the USSR*).

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